JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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JOHN BULL.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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All editorial enquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

At the time of going to press, our suggestion of a Conference on the Constitutional question is favourite for the political stakes. But it will place Mr. Asquith in a very awkward position. In no case will the Lords abandon their veto on "general" legislation—especially when it may involve changes in the Constitution. That means no Home Rule—at any rate, till after a special appeal to the people on the question. And that will not suit the Irish Party. The Labour men, also, scent danger. On the other hand, both sections recognise the necessity for an outward concession to decency, in view of the new conditions; and so they will "permit" the Conference—with their tongues in their cheeks—convinced that it will fizzle out, and that the autumn will find things "as they were" and everything ready for a fight. Thus the only solution must be a coalition of the official parties. Verily, that Business Government looms large on the political horizon.

Meanwhile, everything in the political world is listless and unreal. The first few days of Parliament have been a complete fizzle. Nobody has seemed to care a rap about what was going on. The Government soon realised the position; and instead of moving the suspension of the eleven o'clock rule on the first day, in accordance with notice, the Prime Minister quietly left the House—which, after a desultory talk on some of the Naval Estimates, rose before dinner time. The next day proceedings collapsed at five o'clock; whilst on the Friday scarcely anybody turned up. There can be no doubt that the death of King Edward has knocked the bottom out of the Party game. Nobody is in the mood to play it just now.

Here is a delicious piece of practical Christianity. One of our readers tells us that he induced a large Lancashire mill-owner to come to our League meeting in Manchester. Walking home, the mill-owner was asked what he thought of our views, to which came the following reply:—"Well," said he, "Mr. Bottomley's views are undoubtedly 'common sense,' and I agree with him in everything excepting his running down of the Missionary Societies, because, if the missionary had not penetrated into savage countries our traders would never have dared to go, *in which case we should not be doing a quarter the trade in exports that we do now.*"

It is an interesting evidence of the growth of the League, by the way, that in many provincial districts, quite apart from the activity of the branches, a vigorous correspondence is going on in the local press. On the whole, our cause is being well championed. But we desire to correct one misconception which appears to prevail in the minds of our opponents. Here is a sentence from a recent letter in the *Notts Evening Post*, which illustrates the point: "If £ s. d.—the end of all business—was all that was aimed at, Government would still be lacking in the fundamental principles of true reform." Now, this sentence is based upon a totally false idea. The "aim" of a Business Government is efficiency of administration. Money-making is quite outside the sphere of Government—and so is "true reform." Government—*i.e.*, administration—should be in the hands of a dozen experts, each at the head of his own department, and all responsible to Parliament. Reform—*i.e.*, social progress—should be the concern of Parliament only to the extent of giving legal sanction, where necessary, to well-considered schemes for the regulation of society. It is because so many people confuse the House of Commons with a mission hall that so little progress is made with the business of the nation, and that other countries are outstripping us on every hand.

We observe, with interest, that the "largest crane ever constructed" is being erected by Sir Wm. Arrol and Co., for the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company. Perhaps Mr. McKenna will kindly note.

We suppose the Chief Constable of Neath is responsible for the Sunday-trading prosecutions in Neath. Why, then, should he make fish of one and fowl of another? There are about 40 shops open on Sunday in the town, yet week after week only three persons are prosecuted, and they are always the same three. One would have thought that the magistrates would have noticed the unfairness of convicting these three people over and over again and leaving the other 37 in undisputed possession of their profits. The police ought to prosecute all Sunday traders alike, or none. Will they please note?

Sir Hiram Maxim is not by any means the first advocate for the substitution of national roulette for national horseracing; the State organising the roulette tables and taking a percentage of the money passing over them. England is not a rouletting country, however. It is a horseracing one, chiefly because horseracing is not only a sport but an outdoor sport, and it is sportsmanship the Englishman loves. Gambling is only an incident of horseracing, but with roulette it is the game itself. What is more, it is the most cold-blooded gamble we know.

A woman who had been deceived by a London art publisher, a married man, declared in the Middlesex Sheriff's Court the other day that the man's wife called upon her and stated, among other things, that "all men are single when they are out." That is the most philosophic wife we have heard of for some time. She deserves a vote.

Having taken in hand the exposure of the scandalous immorality prevalent in many so-called nursing homes, it need not be said that we note with interest the proceedings at the meeting presided over by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson the other day in Cavendish Square. State registration of nurses and local inspection of nursing homes either by the police or officials of the London County Council may seem a drastic remedy, but practically it is the only one available, for in many cases these places are nothing more nor less than *maisons de tolerance* under another name, though free from any sort of inspection at all.

If, as a rule, magistrates treat with the utmost rigour of the law trivial offences under the Vagrancy Acts, they are undoubtedly lenient with the very common sort of brute who cruelly illtreats dumb animals. Take a recent case at Hove. Here a man was proved to have been ill-treating his pony for weeks, for the animal's thighs were a mass of cuts and weals in all stages of rawness and healing. Nevertheless, he was let off with five shillings and costs. Now, if he had been caught sleeping out——!

Contrasts: A few days ago, a well-connected man, with a University education, was caught taking four or five Baedeker's Guides from Mudie's Library, and was followed and arrested as he was about to offer them for sale at a second-hand bookshop in Charing Cross Road. Subsequently charged, it was put in as a defence that he was suffering at the time from the after-effects of an attack of influenza, and Mr. Curtis Bennett ordered him to come up for judgment if called upon. Seen taking four magazines from St. Luke's Public Library, a labourer was prosecuted at Old Street. He pleaded that he "was a great reader, and took the books to read at home, intending to return them." Though "nothing was known against him," Mr. Biron sent him to prison for two months with hard labour—which is obviously a case of hard luck. That labourer ought to have suffered from influenza.

Really, the Manchester Finance Committee ought to have known better than to submit to the City Council a proposal that the Chief Constable should be paid £50 for extra services in connection with the Labour Registries. True, Alderman Copeland stated at the first sign of criticism that they only brought forward the proposal on the recommendation of the Distress Committee, and admitted he "could say nothing about the merits of the case." As a fact, there were no special merits in the case at all. The Chief Constable receives £1,250 a year and emoluments, for doing his duty, and the suggestion about "extra services" in connection with the distress work of the city is, as Sir Thomas Shann rightly pointed out, no more applicable to the Chief Constable than to some other officials of the Corporation. This "extra work" nonsense is being ridden much too hard by the highly-paid officials of our municipalities, while if any member of the public wishes to reward a poor police constable for some specially meritorious service, the officer more often than not is debarred from having personal use of the gift at all. In the case of Chief Constable Peacock, the amount proposed to be granted was relatively small, but the principle on which the proposal was based must necessarily be of wide application if admitted. For this reason we commend the strong attitude taken up against it by a large majority of the Manchester City Council, and this with not the slightest disrespect to a police official whose work is not often left open for the sharper criticism.

By a majority of seven to four, the Plans and Works Committee of Edinburgh Town Council have refused to permit the use of the Portobello bandstand on Sunday, July 17th, for an orchestral concert in aid of the widows and orphans' fund of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. What a pity it is for some widows and some orphans that some Scotsmen are so religious.

Some of the parishioners of Hornchurch, in Essex, asked the Vicar, the Rev. Herbert Dale, to print what he said in the pulpit at the Memorial Service of the late King held in the parish church. We are glad he has done so, for all tolerant people in Hornchurch will now have the pleasure of reading his sermon. "The greatest blunder that we are in danger of making today," the rev. gentleman told his hearers, "is that of mistaking the cause of party to be the interest of the nation. It is a perfectly honest blunder. We often think we are being patriotic when we are only being partisan; we think we are being religious when we are only being sectarian;" and he might have gone a little farther, and said "we think we are being religious when we are only being humbugs." By way of showing his tolerance, he invited two local Nonconformist ministers, the Rev. Peter Millar and the Rev. Mr. Nicholls, to read the lessons in church, and by way of showing theirs, they accepted his invitation. It is a small matter that in his foreword thanking them for their "beautiful reading," the Vicar refers to them as "Mr." Millar and "Mr." Nicholls. Probably nothing on earth would induce him to acknowledge the validity of Nonconformist "orders." However, Hornchurch seems fortunate on the whole in its spiritual guides, and we trust they will continue to "love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Surely this cannot be true?

A Miss —— attended Middlesex Hospital yesterday as an outpatient, and with about twelve other persons sat on forms in the operating room, and was compelled to witness the surgeons operating. One case in particular, that of a girl having her foot lanced, caused her great pain, and her shrieks were distressing to listen to, and left a very deep and painful impression on Miss —— and the other waiting patients.

For superlative humbug commend us to the Rev. A. D. Tupper-Carey, Rector of Lowestoft, recently appointed Canon of York. Commenting in his parish magazine on his new duties, he says that wherever he goes he "gets the most profound bows," and "as one walks down the vestry between two rows of choir-boys, one only sees the backs of their necks, so low are the bows. I long to have them shake hands as I pass them. I can only long to be once more among fishermen who could not bow to anyone to save their lives. . . . But one cannot have everything one likes in this world, and so long as one is trying to do some good one must not mind what the work is"—or, for that matter, what the salary is either. But if the Canon is so fond of being among fishermen who won't bow to save their lives, why in the world did he accept the canonry? It wasn't a judicial sentence, was it?

The Treasury have resurrected an old method of "getting its own," or what it regards as its own, which is not quite the same thing. It has gone right back to the Middle Ages, having seized the goods of a woman keeping a tobacconist's shop in Teddington, under a "Writ of *Diem clausit extremum*," by which the Sheriff has not only power to seize the goods but the woman as well, and carry her off to prison. Though this is a legal proceeding, it is wholly arbitrary, and in the light of modern law utterly unjust; for the Sheriff, on behalf of the Crown, does under this writ what in the ordinary legal process it would be illegal for him to do except after trial and judgment. Briefly, the Crown claims £150, part of the alleged defalcations of an Army officer who recently committed suicide after presenting this woman with various sums of money, £330 of which went to open a shop. The attitude of the Treasury is practically that of the Yankee policeman towards the free-born Amurric'n citizen, "Hit him first and hold him after." Having got possession of the woman's effects at her own expense of "five bob a day," they leave her to commence action in the High Court for their release, a proceeding which, on the face of it, will require a great deal of justification. In a word, it is monstrous.

Has it ever been estimated what it costs to maintain a staff of police for the purpose of keeping our morals in order? We read of half-a-dozen detectives hidden in a furniture van, or a similar number disguised as old women, making a raid and capturing some wretched tuppenny-ha'penny bookie, all in the interests of morality; but there is a further development, at any rate, in London. In most of the parks there goes on much open-air speaking on Sundays—political, social and theological. Freethinkers, among others, advocate their views, and every advocate of heterodoxy is favoured with the attentions of two "plain clothes men," whose business it is to report anything which can be construed into "blasphemy." They are, we believe, loaned to the L.C.C. at a charge of 15s. per man. And, as Mr. Cluer, the London magistrate, recently pointed out, there is a danger in this sort of thing. They are sent out to hear offensive language, and they are pretty sure to hear it. Is not the whole thing absurd? As Charles Bradlaugh said thirty years ago, we are in infinitely greater danger of having our liberties filched away bit by bit under the pretence of looking after our morals than by any direct attack upon them. At the rate at which they are being nibbled away now, we shall shortly be inspected and schooled and nursed and drilled and policed from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof, until all the steel is taken out of our manhood and we shall be mere automata, moved at the pleasure of our "pastors and masters and all them that are put in authority over us."

We are going to watch Mr. Brady, Resident Magistrate of Belfast, and watch him closely. This gentleman has had before him a man pleading guilty to stealing 36 dozen jam-jars. Admittedly, stealing jam jars is as wicked as stealing anything else. But in the case of Henry Kelly there were mitigating circumstances which any humane magistrate would have sympathetically taken into consideration. The man's eldest daughter is blind, and "being pressed for money he took the pots and sold them to pay the expenses of an operation." But this fact did not impress the brain or touch the heart of Mr. Brady. "Three months in gaol," said he, and though even the prosecutor appealed to him to reduce the ferocious sentence, he refused to do so by a single day. Apparently the one idea in his mind was the number of stolen jam jars, and he assessed the punishment on the basis of one month per dozen dozens. Would any philanthropist in Belfast like to present the city with a statue of its Resident Magistrate—in putty?

If the French are going to persist in their tobacco tyranny, they will soon cease to attract tourists. If they want revenue, by all means let them tax smokers within reason, but it is foolish as well as unfair to restrict their guests to the consumption of cabbage-leaf. If they are not careful, we shall have to take our pleasures in Belgium.

The Government is far too lavish in devoting public monies to the endowment of scientific and pseudo-scientific research. Why should taxpayers be compelled to contribute to Antarctic expeditions and nostrums for the cure of sleeping sickness? The last straw is provided by the reminder that we have been paying Elder, Dempster, Ltd., no less than £20,000 a year to promote the shipment of bananas from Jamaica to this country. If people want bananas, let them buy them in the open market at the market price.

So Sir Charles Hardinge is to succeed Lord Minto in India. It is an interesting appointment. Sir Charles has served in Teheran and St. Petersburg, and as Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and, the confidant in a peculiar degree of King Edward, he knows everything there is to be known about European policy as it bears upon India. Moreover, he is a man of tact and judgment. His grandfather, then Sir Henry Hardinge, was appointed Viceroy by Peel in 1844, and a passage in a private letter addressed by the then Prime Minister to the new Viceroy may well be quoted:—"If," wrote Sir Robert Peel, "you can keep peace, reduce expenses, extend commerce, and strengthen our hold on India by confidence in our justice, and kindness, and wisdom, you will be received here on your return with acclamations a thousand times louder and a welcome infinitely more cordial, than if you had a dozen victories to boast of." Wise words these, and as true and needed to day as they were when written six-and-sixty years ago.

It seems to be settled that the Duke of Connaught is to succeed Earl Grey as Governor-General of Canada. It is now nearly thirty-two years since the official announcement that the husband of a daughter of Queen Victoria was to succeed Lord Dufferin at Ottawa, and there was delight in Canada at receiving a ruler so nearly connected with the sovereign. Canada felt that a graceful compliment had been paid her, and apparently she is of the same mind now. The Duke of Connaught is not afraid of work, and if he does not jib at the drudgery inseparable from the appointment, and gives his confidence to those who may be assigned to him as his responsible advisers, his appointment may be justified by the event. At any rate, we begin by pleasing the Dominion.

One of the grossest examples of pulpit impudence ever brought to our notice is that furnished by the vicar of All Saints, Scarborough. On the night of King Edward's funeral there was a performance of Brahms' "Requiem" in the church, where the vicar announced that the churchwardens would take note of all those who did not contribute silver to the collection, for such persons could be excused on two grounds only: that they were either deep in poverty or deep in debt. This disgraceful statement was an affront to the whole congregation assembled there in "God's House." On the score of gentlemanly taste, to say nothing of Christian feeling, it brought the vicar almost down to the level of the street mountebank who won't stand on his head and drink half-a-pint for less than ninepence. We wonder what Scarborough thinks of him?

If it were not really so serious, one could smile at all this bother about the future of Lord Kitchener. Here we have, admittedly, a good man, and yet we do not know what to do with him! So it is proposed to banish him to Malta, just as the Government of the day banished the Duke of Connaught when they had him on their hands. The Duke, it may be remembered, refused to remain in exile, and preferred the home life of a country gentleman. There are many who want to force Lord Kitchener to snuff himself out in the same manner; but it is not likely to be done by means of this farcical post of High Commissioner in the Mediterranean. Lord Kitchener knows better than anybody that the creation of that high-sounding title gave great offence to Continental nations, and we may thank it for the very natural rise of a strong Austrian Navy. The situation may develop into a tragedy. From a military point of view, too, the appointment was a ludicrous one for the Duke, and so it would be for Lord Kitchener. Both are Field Marshals, and General French, the head of the Army, is only a General—junior in rank, and junior in service. General French did not land in Malta while the Duke was there because of the little difficulty of military etiquette, to say nothing of that attaching to a Royal personage, and we can hardly imagine Kitchener, in his old days, joyfully accepting a command under one who served under him in South Africa.

Another Army correspondent writes:—

> In your issue for May 28th there appeared a complaint from an Army correspondent of the hardships for married people with families involved in the coming move of the R.F.A. Brigade from Fermoy after a stay of only six months. The War Office thoroughly understands that the breaking up of homes almost before they had settled down causes much inconvenience, and they do all they can to prevent it. But the exigencies of the service cannot be ruled by any feelings of sentiment. Moreover, every soldier knows, or should know, long before he marries, what is liable to happen at any moment. Those married "on the strength" suffer little by a change, for they receive free passages for themselves, wives, children (under 16), and belongings. Those married "off the strength"—that is, for whom no room can be found in barracks—are, undoubtedly sufferers, as they have to shift for themselves. But they walked into the trouble with their eyes open. They committed a breach of discipline, and like good soldiers should bear the consequences in silence. This marrying "off the strength" is one of the most difficult Army problems to-day. Every garrison town can tell tales of the woe and misery that follow in its train, and the Soldiers and Sailors' Families Association are doing invaluable work in paying attention to the unhappy wives and families left behind at Fermoy and elsewhere.

We have been favoured with the report of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Ratepayers' Association, and beg to ask why £19 0s. 7d. (out of an income of £64 3s. 6d.) was paid as "Commission to Collector."

A reader has sent us a copy of the accounts of the Employees' Provident Pension and Gratuity Fund of the Army and Navy Stores, covering the period from February 1st, 1909, to January 31st, 1910, and on the credit side of the account we notice this item: "Cash on deposit with the Society, £97,831 7s. 9d." It is obvious from these figures that the administrators of the Fund are not compelled by lack of resources to treat employees who have left the service of the Society in the shabby and unjust manner to which we have directed attention on more than one occasion of late.

We have also been favoured with a prospectus of the Monte Carlo Investment Syndicate, Ltd., whereby a Mr. W. FitzGerald asks for £2,000 to play roulette with, and promises a dividend of 3s. a week on every 10s. share. A Mr. A. M. Nesbitt, M.A., Examiner in Mathematics at Oxford University, contributes a half-hearted testimonial, and all correspondence is to be addressed to Mr. Fitzgerald, care of Smith's Bank, Monte Carlo. The odd point about this is that Smith's Bank ceased to exist a long time ago, being incorporated in the Comptoir d'Escompte, which is managed by the Hon. Victor Bethell, who has published various books on "systems." What says he to Mr. Fitzgerald's appeal? And does he accept any responsibility?

The authorities at the Wicklow Dominican Convent have now taken to sending out their lottery tickets addressed to "the timekeeper" and "the junior clerk" in various firms. May this not sometimes happen to be a case of inciting minors to gamble? In any case we fail to see why the police allow Irish monks to defy the Lottery Act, seeing how vigilantly other offenders are restrained.

We are informed that people who travel by Sunday League excursions are subjected to monstrous charges by the companies if they take the smallest parcels with them. A lady who went to Margate to see a little invalid daughter was actually made to pay 6d. as "excess luggage" on a dozen eggs and eighteen small sponge cakes. No wonder railways are unpopular.

The following appeared in the *Glasgow Herald* and *Glasgow Evening Citizen*:—

> At the Western Police Court a man was charged with having, on Friday, 11th inst., in an office in Waterloo Street, assaulted a Paisley girl. The evidence showed that the girl had applied for a situation, and a postcard was received from accused asking her to call that day at 9.30 a.m. The magistrate found accused guilty, and imposed a fine of £10, or 60 days' imprisonment.

We wonder how the scoundrel contrived to keep his name out of the papers. Perhaps the editors will kindly investigate?

The Cinematograph Act, 1909, contains the following gem:—

> This Act shall not apply to an exhibition given in a private dwelling-house to which the public are *not admitted*, whether *on payment or otherwise*.

No doubt many of the public would be quite willing to pay not to come in to some of these shows.

Mr. Walter Emanuel, of *Punch*, has risen to writing testimonials for advertisers. About a fountain pen he says, "The only thing I have against it is that it occasionally writes great rubbish with appalling facility." But why only "occasionally"?

What is this funny story we hear about the mishap to the Mayor of East Ham in connection with his recent visit to Saffron Walden?

Certain people keep clamouring for what they are pleased to call a "national theatre," by which they mean a theatre subsidised by the nation. Apart from questions of economy, it is well to remember that such an experiment would constitute a very unfair kind of competition with ordinary theatrical enterprise.

Our biscuit editor reports a curious coincidence. It appears that certain misprints are epidemic during a few weeks and are then succeeded by others. At one time, numbers of races were won by so many years (instead of yards). Then there were dozens of advertisers wanting to clean widows. Just now the favourite report of a sermon leaves out the "t" in immortality—an omission which may have its advantages, but is clearly heterodox.

The following plaint, taken from a local paper, is hereby redressed :—

> A Pudsey company were discussing the merits of various periodicals, and one member mentioned JOHN BULL as an up-to-date publication. "It's noan sooa up to date," was another Pudseyite's criticism; "it nivver has nowt in abaht Pudsa'l" Mr. Bottomley will perhaps note.

The *Westminster Gazette* recently offered a prize for the best collection of the worst twelve platitudes. To our surprise Mr. Roosevelt's name did not appear in the list of winners.

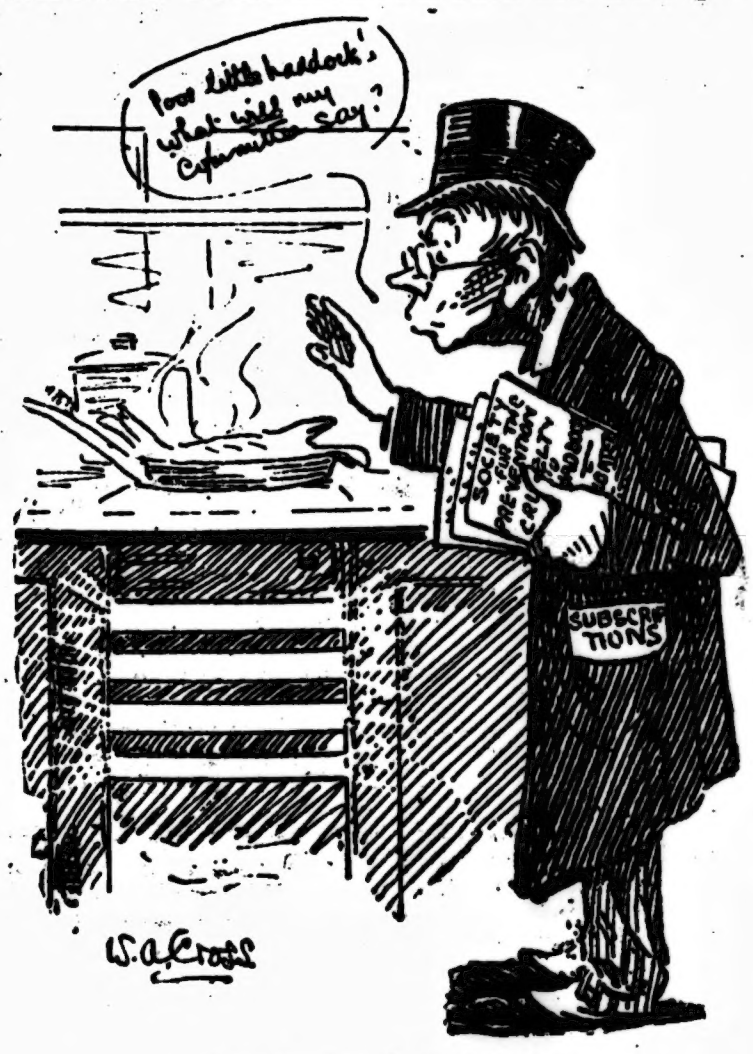
THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT" :—

Overheard in House of Commons Cloak Room, on Thursday, June 9th :—

M.P. (handing his coat and hat to attendant): "Anything special going on?"

ATTENDANT: "Nothing important, sir—*only the Navy.*"

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—



THE MORBID SENTIMENTALIST

WHOSE SYMPATHIES ARE WITH EVERY LIVING BEING EXCEPT HIS FELLOW MEN.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No biscuits for mistakes made by newspapers in connection with the late King Edward.

WANTED ADVTS.—No biscuits for employers requiring "live" or "hand-sewn" men—the first adjective is a colloquialism, and the second a trade term. Nor do we give any to the respectable women who want washing, or to anyone suffering from "tears in his voice," or to compositors who confuse "deceased" with "accused."

EMPTY HOUSES, ETC.—Biscuits are also refused in respect of empty houses containing furniture, empty nests "disclosing" eggs, etc., etc.

For stating in its Summary of Contents: "Correspondence: Care of Feeble-minded (The Bishop of Birmirgham and Others) . . ."

THE TIMES
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing a house to let, "£15 and RATS,
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the Acorn Stakes, like the Oaks, is confined to FILLIES . . . *Radiancy, a* SON *of Sundridge, was favourite,"*

THE BIRMINGHAM EXPRESS AND STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following advertisement: "A young lady requires the LOAN *of £3 for a short time;* NO LENDERS,"
AN ADVERTISER IN *THE EVENING NEWS*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising the loss of a "small BLACK LADY'S *watch,"*

MR. OLIVER, of HULL,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a gardener proved himself a faithful servant to his master "up to the date of his death and for SOME YEARS AFTERWARDS,"

THE HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For prognosticating that "the DAMAGE *to the Hon. C. S. Rolls's biplane would in all probability be* COMPLETED *in time for a flight,"*

THE PEOPLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For enquiring "What is the driving-force behind this great confederation of kingdoms, dominions, and commonwealths upon which THE SUN IN HIS JOURNEY ROUND THE GLOBE *never ceases to shine?"*

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that "the G.W. Railway are running DAY *trains on Friday* NIGHTS,"

THE PEOPLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following report: "A thunderstorm broke over Brighton on Tuesday night, and while out shopping a married woman named Grace Mitchell, aged 21, died immediately after a vivid flash of LIGHTNING. *At the inquest on Wednesday evening a verdict was returned that death was due to* DROWNING,"

THE BRIGHTON ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For observing, with reference to the death of Mr. Tomkinson in a point-to-point race, "he had had many falls, but none PREVIOUSLY OF SO SERIOUS A NATURE,"

THE ABEREEN EVENING EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For observing, in announcing a death, "No doubt his friends would not like to SEE *him buried* WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING,"

AN ADVERTISER IN THE *CAMBRIA DAILY LEADER*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

"NURSING HOMES OR——?"

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

(This series of articles commenced in our issue of May 14th.)

We continue to give extracts from our Special Commissioner's Report upon the so-called "Nursing Homes" and "Massage" establishments of London. The subject has aroused widespread interest, and there is a general demand for Parliamentary intervention.

"Lessons in French"!

Incidentally, and before proceeding further, I would warn my readers, and especially those who are parents of young men and women, against some of the advertisers of French Lessons and "Conversation." Here is an advertisement taken from a recent issue of one of the leading and most respectable of the Sunday papers:—

> JEUNE PARISIENNE donne Lecons de Conversation. Excellente méthode. Progres rapides. Hours one-seven, by appointment.—Telephone —— Central, or letters only to ——.

I rang up —— Central. "Will you kindly give me your terms?" I asked. "You will please come to my flat and see me," replied a lady. "And where may your flat be?" The address was readily given. "Good, I'll come along," I said, and I went. In answer to my ring, I was admitted by a somewhat faded French woman, who asked me to take a seat, which I did. She then came and sat beside me. She explained that she spoke "very little English." "Then, as I speak very little French, how are we to get on?" I asked. "Oh, we shall get on all right," she said, with a leering smile. "You pay me two guineas for the lesson. That's all"—taking my hand—"you will make a very nice pupil." I said I would think it over.

And here is another advertisement from the same issue of the same paper:—

> FRENCH FINISHING LESSONS, pleasant rapid method. —Mlle. ——, —, Shaftesbury Avenue, 2nd floor (lift) (afternoon).

I have not yet tried the "pleasant" and rapid method—but intend to do so before these lines appear.

Nurses in Revolt.

I am no longer of opinion that nurses are incapable of organising for self-protection. Since my last report was written they have shown that they are not only capable of organising, but have given evidence of real grit. The nurses at St. Bartholomew's Hospital have always been in favour of registration. Some few months ago their matron died, and a lady from the London Hospital was promoted to her post. The newly-appointed matron comes from a hospital where a two years' certificate of training is issued, as against three at Bart's., and it is alleged that the newcomer is not in favour of registration. And now war has been declared, and a crowded meeting, presided over by Miss Banfield, was held a few days ago. Many letters and telegrams of protest were read. The Scottish and Irish Associations sent their sympathies. I wish the nurses of Bart's. good luck, and the newly-appointed matron has my sympathy.

Purging an Establishment.

A few days ago I visited a certain massage establishment not far from Oxford Circus.

The staff consisted of two nurses and the principal, all with hospital training, and certified. After looking over the premises I inspected the books. They carried me over a period of eight years.

The bank pass-book showed that only during one period of three months during the eight years was there any substantial balance at the bank. I asked the reason of this sudden increase of business. Here is what I was told, and I think it quite feasible. For some reason or other three new nurses were engaged. After they had been in the house a couple of weeks business began to improve. It went on improving. After two months and a half one of the nurses fell ill, and a new one came in to take her place.

While attending to a patient one morning an improper suggestion was made to her and was promptly resented. She complained to the principal in the presence of the patient. There was a scene. "Your other girls do it," said the patient. The cat was out of the bag. The patient left hurriedly, and the two other nurses were brought down to the office. Neither of them denied the statement, and both seemed astonished that there should be any objection. They were then discharged, and a new staff engaged. So generally known is it that this establishment is a *bona fide* one that it takes it all its time to pay its way.

A Noble Lord's Protégée.

In a fashionable street in the West-End one of these "massage" establishments is run by a lady who, but a year or two ago, was a farm bailiff's daughter, in a village not fifty miles from London. She entered the service of a well-known "noble lord," who had a residence in the district, and was persuaded by him to leave the village—ostensibly to take a position in his London establishment. Arriving in town, she was installed in a splendidly appointed flat, and to prevent the nature of his lordship's visits being suspected, he arranged that she should call herself a "masseuse," and advertise as such. He then introduced her to a number of his friends, and her clientèle now embraces many members of the "smart set," and, at least, one eminent politician.

A City Man's Complaint.

Here is one out of the hundreds of letters received:—

> As a regular reader of your paper I venture to suggest that you also call attention to the other side of the question. I refer to those places which are being run simply to exploit those who are in distress, with very little thought or care for those entrusted to their charge.
>
> Five years ago my wife consulted a very eminent surgeon, and he told her an operation was necessary. As we were not then very well off, he gave her the option of going to hospital, where there would be no charge, or to a nursing home, where he would operate for £40, and where she could have a room for £6 6s. a week. We decided on the latter, although at great fear of expense.
>
> This fear was soon realised, as we discovered after the first night that unless my poor wife was to die in the night for want of attention, we must send in our own night nurse, at an extra cost of £2 12s. 6d. weekly. This is not the worst, as in five weeks my wife had ten different nurses, one after the other leaving because they could not get enough food.
>
> One night nurse told us these nurses had no right to the uniform they wore, as they had never passed any examination, though they were put to deal with most critical surgery cases. My wife was given stale fish and other unsuitable food till we had to take in everything she required. At last we had to take her home on an ambulance.
>
> In a few weeks my wife died from septic poisoning, on account of her wounds not being properly cleaned. This is what I had to contend with after spending about £150 in five weeks.
>
> The chemist, who was in league with the matron of the home, sent me in a bill for £12 for ointment: zinc and lanoline at 7s. 6d. a lb.
>
> My opinion is that the absence of such means is the cause of so many people going to our hospitals when they ought to pay for treatment. I am to suffer all my life, and my children are deprived of their mother, when her life might have been spared under proper treatment.

Next week I shall have something to say about the profit-sharing part of the business—the doctor, the undertaker, the landlord, the house agent, and sundry others, all being in it.

(To be continued.)

SOMETHING WRONG AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

HOW THE GOVERNMENT TREATS ITS EMPLOYEES.

(COMMUNICATED.)

If there is one Department of the State that needs proper supervision under a Business Government, that place is Woolwich Arsenal. To state that the national workshop comes under the direct management, or mismanagement of the War Office, is to say all that there is to be said. But a few facts will enlighten the ratepayers as to how their money goes astray. At present there are some 8,000 men employed there, exclusive of the non-productive staff; that is, those not directly employed in the manufacture of munitions of war, such as clerks, accountants, foremen, rate-fixers, managers and supervisors. During the late South African War the number of men employed was increased to 21,000, and the non-productive staff was also increased in proportion. Now, although the artisans have been reduced down to their present strength, the non-producers are numerically the same, with the result that, out of the £955,000 allocated for wages in the Ordnance Factories Estimates this year, nearly two-thirds of that sum goes in the payment of highly salaried officials.

It is the policy of the present Government to run the Arsenal with as meagre staff as possible, only expanding it to its fullest extent in the time of war. This means that whole shops are closed down, with tons of valuable machinery lying idle and corroding for want of work. Anyone who has had experience in the engineering profession knows that machinery is constantly going out of date and requires replacing by newer plant, so that when the time comes for expansion, most of this machinery will be obsolete, while the rest will be unworkable owing to the component parts being lost. So much for the plant. Now about the employees.

It must not be thought that the present Government is an ideal employer, in spite of its loudly trumpeted utterances for the welfare of the working classes blazoned forth from every party platform up and down the country. A good deal of discontent has been spreading lately among the workmen owing to sweating conditions, and as recently as March 7th last, Mr. Haldane admitted in the House of Commons that the Fair Wages Clause which the Government applied to contractors did not always hold good in their own workshops.

Again, two years ago the present War Secretary, in the same place pledged his solemn word that the number of artisans employed in the Arsenal would not be reduced below 8,000. In March last the same gentleman stated that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to lower that minimum to 7,000, thus discharging another 1,000 men.

The Cabinet, then, after spending huge sums of money upon labour exchanges to mitigate the stress of unemployment in this country, calmly proposes to add further to that condition of industrial canker by throwing its own artisans upon the streets. Here we have the anomaly of two State Departments working directly against one another. Well may one exclaim, "Oh, for that Business Government!" If the millennium had arrived and the nations were enjoying that long predicted period of peace on earth and goodwill to all men, then there would be some grounds for closing the national workshops, but to-day, with a growing activity in bellicose preparations by a certain Continental Power, it is a national menace that the Arsenal should be almost shut down and thousands of pounds of plant lying idle, and the ratepayers' money instead of being spent as it should be spent in the production of war stores, wasted in keeping fat unnecessary and highly paid officials, together with their brothers, cousins and uncles.

Three or four years ago new posts were made for some half-a-dozen University men to act as supervisors at a commencing salary of £170 a year. These men were introduced into practical workshops straight from Oxford and Cambridge without any experience in workshop methods or practice. Would the manager of a business firm go to the 'Varsities for practical men?

NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY.—We advise all persons using these registers to join the London National Cash Register Users' Protective Association, 137, Saltram Crescent, Paddington, W.

"THE IMPERIAL ART SUPPLY COMPANY."

ANOTHER "HOME WORK" FRAUD.

The following statement, from a Streatham reader, tells its own tale:—

On March 7th, 1910, appeared the following advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph*:—

> ART.—Persons wanted to colour small prints in spare time. No canvassing. Experience unnecessary. 1s. hourly may easily be made. Town or country.—Letters only to Art Cie., 17, Ranelagh Avenue, Fulham.

I received on the 8th particulars after writing to said address, and they sent me an application form to sign, requesting me to enclose P.O. for 7s. 6d., the amount for a box containing colours. I forwarded the postal order—sent form on same day. The following day I received a box of colours and two small prints to colour. Seeing, however, that this was absolutely impossible for me to do, I returned on March 11th the box personally to their office from which all their business is transacted, and the firm's name and business address is The Imperial Art Supply Co., Chichester House, Chancery Lane, W.C.

After explaining that I was unable to undertake the work, I returned the box in the same condition as I had received it, and courteously asked for the return of my money. The man in charge kept the box and said he would write to me next day.

Not receiving any reply I called again on March 15th, and was very uncivilly treated. The same man said they would write on the same evening to me.

I did not hear anything, and called again on the 18th. There was a stormy scene when I told them that I could not run up specially from Streatham after being told that they would write to me, and did not do so. The man in charge told me that they had sent on P.O. for 6s. 6d. only the previous evening.

On the following day, March 19th, I wrote as follows:—

"Referring to my call at your office, I beg to say that I have not yet received the money which you allege you have sent the day before yesterday. I want my money, and if you had sent it you would have showed me the desired copy and the counterfoil of the P.O. If I do not receive my full money paid to you—namely, 7s. 6d.—by the first post to-morrow morning I shall make the whole thing known through the medium of JOHN BULL."

On April 5th, the one and only letter came:—

"Sir,—Your remarks, written as they are upon a post-card, amount to a libel, and we now give you notice that should we receive any more similar communications from you such proceedings as our solicitors advise shall be immediately instituted against you.

"Regarding your claim, as before stated, 6s. 6d. was posted to you and addressed to Mr. Fox—the name which you previously adopted—on the date already mentioned. We have the testimony of our post-boy, who distinctly remembers posting the letter in question.

[An absolute untruth—for I saw the boy on March 18th, and he remembered absolutely nothing.]

"Some mistake is evidently due at your end owing possibly to the second name used. In any event we refuse to accept any liability or to correspond with you further in the matter. You have your remedy, and may take notice that we will accept service of any document in this matter. This letter is final.—Yours truly,

"Imperial Art Supply Co."

To this I replied on April 8th:—

"In answer to your letter of yesterday, will you please let me know the number of the P.O. you have sent me, so that I can make further enquiries, as without this it is absolutely impossible to go further in this matter, as far as the postal authorities are concerned.

"Whether you addressed the envelope to Fox or Fuchs this would make no difference whatsoever, as the postmen know me well, and there is absolutely no one else living either in this road nor in my house with such a name. As long as the address is correct, and which is as you gave it, it is perfectly in order.—Yours truly, K. Fox."

I received no reply, and the correspondence closes.

The police have recently been showing some activity in connection with these "Home work" frauds—and we now commend the "Imperial Art Supply" gang to their attention.

THE BREAK-UP OF THE SALVATION ARMY.—III.

THE ARMY'S REPLY—AND OUR REJOINDER.

We have brought Mr. Bramwell Booth on the knee. The Salvation Army leader has been compelled to abandon his policy of silence in the teeth of our criticism, and rush into print and deny, in his own refined way, our allegations. The significance of this departure in "Army" methods will be clearly seen by placing in juxtaposition two extracts from the *War Cry* of June 11th. Both are written by Mr. Bramwell Booth himself, although appearing in different parts of the official organ of the movement.

BRAMWELL BOOTH ON A "SWEET TEMPER."

David said in his haste, "All men are liars." It was of course, permissible hyperbole. And perhaps, if he lived in our day he would say the same thing at his leisure. Nothing is quite so amazing as the cool effrontery with which dishonourable persons will bear false witness against their neighbours. The tribe of Ananias and Sapphira flourish exceedingly, and it is not so easy nowadays to wind them up and carry them forth. But the liar will in the long run defeat his own ends. The best way to deal with a liar is to keep a sweet temper and let him say on!—*War Cry.*

HOW BRAMWELL BOOTH PRACTISES A SWEET TEMPER.

Whole story absurd calumny.

Extracts garbled.

Article was warmly eulogistic, placing King Edward's influence above that of his illustrious mother, notwithstanding shortness of reign, presenting great life work as example to be followed by readers.

We all revere his memory.—*Bramwell Booth's reply to the Mayor of Hull, who decided not to preside at General Booth's meeting and then recanted.*

For years the Salvation Army has stood on the old platform of non-resistance, refusing to answer its critics, and supply the public with statistics as to its membership. Now, when it is threatened with a loss of subscriptions and royal support, the General, astute man, reprimands his son for his bad taste, and sends him rushing into print with what will be seen at a glance is a poor attempt to answer the charge that we made, and which we repeat, namely, that Mr. Bramwell Booth slandered the memory of our late King. Still, we are thankful for small mercies. The first breach in the silence of Queen Victoria Street has occurred.

As to the effect of Mr. Bramwell Booth's slanders on the late King, it has been stupendous, as an incident at Hull illustrates.

The Mayor of that good town, on seeing our quotation from Mr. Booth's "appreciation" of King Edward, at once cancelled his engagement to preside at a public meeting to be addressed by General Booth. Headquarters were telegraphed. Here was a flutter! And it was at this point that General Booth heard for the first time that his son had written the offensive article in question. He at once ordered his Major Rogers, of Hull, to call on the Mayor and whittle down the passages and point out that they were only intended when put side by side with the context—oh! that old context argument—to magnify the character of our late illustrious monarch! But the Mayor refused to alter his decision, and then General Booth threatened not to visit Hull at all, for, although he had expressed his displeasure with his son's literary performances, the old man is a stickler for discipline; hence his threat. But the resentment and decision of the Mayor had meanwhile got into the Press, and he was at once subjected to all sorts of attacks and pressure. Friends of the Army pointed out to him that General Booth could not be held quite responsible for the indiscretion of his son, and that in his representative capacity he ought to waive his objections and satisfy the local friends of the movement. Then Bramwell Booth sent one of his suavest Colonels, Mr. Jeffries, as a plenipotentiary of peace, down to Hull. And, by piling on the argument that the General was a devotee of the late King, and that he had conducted a memorial service in his honour, and by rubbing in the context as to the peacemaking virtues of King Edward, the Mayor wrote the following diplomatic statement (the italics are ours):—

"This unpleasant incident has, I hope, terminated satisfactorily. The conclusion we have arrived at is as follows: *Mr. Bramwell Booth does not think the article complained of is reasonably capable of the construction that has been put upon it. He certainly did not intend it to have any such meaning*, and if, unfortunately, it has created such an impression, no one more deeply regrets it than himself. I accept the explanation of Mr. Bramwell Booth, and shall have much pleasure in presiding at the meeting to be addressed by General Booth, and shall do all in my power to make it a success."

From which it will be observed that the Mayor (1) does not withdraw his own opinions on the offensive article; (2) he places the responsibility for its construction on Mr. Bramwell Booth, who, he says, "does not think it is *reasonably* capable"—of its obvious meaning! He certainly "did not intend it to have that meaning," etc. But how Mr. Bramwell Booth can call the "*whole* story an absurd calumny" is more than anyone with an elementary regard for public propriety and truth will understand. It is true that he eulogised the late King. Of course!—but he did so by first qualifying his appreciation by such phrases as:—

"*He was not a great ruler. . . . He was not a profound thinker or a great scholar. He was not a moralist or a philosopher. He kindled no great religious enthusiasm; he inspired no great social movement.*"

Let Mr. Booth explain away those insults.

The *Eastern Morning News*, commenting on the action of Mr. Booth, said:

Before King Edward had been laid in his grave a week, regardless of the universal praise from the people throughout the whole of the British dominions, these floutings of Mr. Bramwell Booth were printed. They are not only an insult to the memory of the dead King, and an outrage on his sorrowing family, but a slap in the face at the entire nation, who are told inferentially that it is a nation of noodles for making such a fuss over a nonentity. What else does Mr. Bramwell Booth's vulgar and ill-timed effusion of negatives come to? The Mayor of Hull has done the right thing in turning his back on an organisation whose leaders have no more decency than to print such abject rubbish.

But not only has JOHN BULL "drawn" the Great Silent One at Queen Victoria Street, but that brilliant *aide-de-camp* of his, Commissioner William Eadie, has also been compelled to acknowledge, in a letter to a correspondent, his views on the controversy. As a specimen of Christian diction, and an illustration of the Jesuitism practised at the International Headquarters, the letter speaks for itself:—

DEAR SIR,—The Chief Secretary (Commissioner Eadie) wishes me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter enclosing a page from a recent issue of JOHN BULL, which contains an article referring to the Salvation Army.

The Chief Secretary desires me to say in reply that he would have supposed, seeing you are a supporter of the Salvation Army, you would have known sufficient of it, its principles, and its actual work, and that you would also have known sufficient of the paper called JOHN BULL, to enable you to distinguish error from truth.

However, we should be most happy to see you with reference to any difficulties which may exist in your mind, if you would care to avail yourself of the opportunity of calling at headquarters.

If you could not arrange to call during the day, perhaps you could mention some evening which would be convenient, and the Chief Secretary will endeavour to arrange for you to be interviewed, in the hope that your mind may be set at rest concerning any misapprehension you may entertain.—Believe me, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Not signed), Private Secretary.

INSULTING THE LATE KING.

THE NEWPORT TAILOR THREATENS A WRIT.

In our issue of June 4th, there appeared the following paragraph:—

> Mr. Enoch Lawton, the Newport tailor who placed a defiant notice in his window that he would open his shop on Friday, the day of King Edward's funeral, soon found that "the sturdy independence of character" he bragged about wasn't sturdy enough to withstand the indignation of the people. Probably he would have been allowed to keep open if he had not insulted the dead monarch. "We are Christians here, not heathens," he said in his notice. "I feel it is an insult to be asked to close my shop in honour of a King whose chief public appearances were on a race-course; the whole affair is a display of abject ignorance and servility." He proceeded to advise the public to "read their Bible more." We advise them to read the advertisements in the local papers more, and select a decent tailor.

We have since received the following communication from Mr. Lawton, dated June 4th:—

> DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of June 14th which is libellous, and calculated to prejudice my customers and injure my business, especially the sentence—
>
> "We advise them to read the advertisements in the local papers more, and select a decent tailor."
>
> I beg to inform you that unless a prompt and public withdrawal of the statement is made, and a full apology for its insertion, I shall issue a writ for damages without delay.

To this we have replied as follows:—

> June 10th, 1910.
>
> Mr. E. Lawton,
> 47 and 114, Commercial Street,
> Newport, Mon.
>
> DEAR SIR,—I have your memorandum of the 4th inst., but have nothing to withdraw or apologise for. Send along the writ.
>
> Yours faithfully,
> THE EDITOR.

Up to the time of going to press, the Writ has not arrived.

AN EDINBURGH CHARITY.

AN EXPLANATION INVITED.

Some twenty-five years ago a Mrs. Harriet Douglas, of Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh, died, leaving a few thousand pounds in trust for respectable tradesmen's widows in indigent circumstances. It was necessary, if the benefits of the fund were to be enjoyed, that the applicant should bear the name of Ross or Douglas, the former being that of the testator's first husband, who predeceased her. To each successful applicant an annuity of £5 was to be granted, and in necessitous cases the Trustees are empowered to increase the amount to £10. Apparently it was the testator's wish that the grant should smack as little as possible of charity, and the schedule to be filled up by the applicant made but the smallest demand upon pen and ink, two respectable householders being, however, required to sign their names in substantiation of the statements made.

For many years the allocation of the grants proceeded smoothly, and in the course of time the Trustees (probably with the sanction of the Court) included men within the benefits, provided they were of the name stipulated, and that they were necessitous invalids. This year, however, the annuitants were informed that of the two respectable "householders" standing sponsor, one must be a clergyman. This new condition has struck hard at at least one widow, who has been in receipt of the pension for many years, and who, now bordering on 70 years of age and in weak health, is more in need of it than ever. For some reason this old lady has no association with clerics, and her renewal petition had perforce to be dispatched without a holy man's signature, in the hope that despite the warning given, the Trustees would not non-suit so old and deserving a beneficiary. But non-suit her they did.

The action of the Trustees seems to require an explanation, and perhaps at the same time they will explain whether it is the fact that a person whose name is Robertson is enjoying the benefits of the fund.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page iii of Cover.

ROUGH ON THE PEDLAR.

A WORD WITH MR. MEAD.

Our attention has been directed to what seems a very hard case. It is that of a pedlar—Edward Read. On the night of April 30th he was leaving Coventry Street on his way home when he was stopped by a plain clothes detective and charged with begging. He denied the charge, but was taken to Vine Street, where he remained the night. Next morning he came before Mr. Mead at Marlborough Street, when the detective swore that he saw Read ask one gentleman to give him a penny for a night's lodging, and make a similar request to a second, saying that he "had no money," and that "he was a good Englishman out of work." The magistrate asked the detective if he had any witness. He had none. He then asked Read what he had to say, and Read told him that the story was absolutely untrue, and that far from wanting a penny for a night's lodging, he had 7s.0½d. in his pocket when arrested, 6s. in silver and 1s. 0½d. in bronze, and this was not denied by the police. Mr. Mead made no comment, but fined him £1, or ten days, with forfeiture of his certificate. Not having the money the man went to jail, and now he is out of it, and he finds himself helpless, unable to pursue his trade, and not able to get work of any kind. It may be said that it is only oath against oath, and that magistrates must uphold the police, but we should have thought that where it was a case of one man's oath against another the magistrate would have regard to other circumstances. Surely it is improbable that a man with 7s. in his pocket should be begging in Coventry Street for a penny, and this a man of good character, who has never had trouble with the police before. We are constantly having complaints in reference to these plain clothes detectives, and we cannot help thinking that the conduct of many of them is open to very grave censure.

AN ALLEGED GAMBLER.

A WORD WITH MR. DENMAN.

We have had a visit from a gentleman who tells us the following story:—

He has a son of 17 who is employed in a counting house in Welbeck Street. The father had only recently returned to England, and on Sunday his son called to see him after lunch at the Ivanhoe Hotel, in Bloomsbury Street. After lunch they went out for a walk, and at 3.40 the father left his boy on the understanding that the lad would return to him at the hotel at 5.30. About half an hour after parting, the father was told by one of the hotel servants that someone wished to see him, and on his going down he found a youth who informed him that his son had been arrested and taken to Tottenham Court Road Police Station. The father at once hurried there and was informed by the inspector on duty that his son was charged with the offence of gambling, and that he was bound over to appear on Monday morning in Court.

The son assured his father that there was not a word of truth in the statement; that soon after leaving him he had gone to a lavatory near the Middlesex Hospital, and on coming out saw several boys at play. He stood for a moment looking at them, and then walked away with a friend across the street, where he was followed by a detective, who arrested him. The next morning the case came before Mr. Denman at Marlborough Street Police Court, and the boy's friend swore that he was not playing, and that he had never played, and was only near the players for a minute or two. The boy himself made a similar declaration. The father also went into the box to swear that his son had only left him a few minutes, and that he was a very steady and good boy. On the other side there was the unsupported statement of the detective, but Mr. Denman had no difficulty in assuming that the two witnesses for the defence were swearing falsely, and that the unsupported statement of the detective was the true one. The upshot was a fine of 10s., which was of course paid.

The father is naturally very indignant. It is a cruel thing to smirch a boy's reputation by recording a sentence against him in a police court upon evidence that ought not to be sufficient to hang a cat.

THE SHIRKING OF MOTHERHOOD.

By Margaret Macgregor, M.A.

There is a silent revolt going on in England to-day that is more serious than the shriekings of the Suffragette or the Socialist's specious propaganda, for the claims of both of these can be combatted in the open; but this revolt is secret and unmentionable, though it threatens the very existence of our country. It is the revolt against motherhood.

"It is not the whole of a woman's duty in life to bear children," says the Suffragette. "It is not necessarily any part of her duty," says the modern married woman. We may, or we may not, agree with the Suffragette's demand for greater responsibility, but we must disagree with the married woman's repudiation of all responsibility.

The continued existence of the State depends on women recognizing to-day that it *is* their duty to have children. Through freedom of choice, motherhood has been changed from a physical burden from which there was no escape into a voluntarily assumed responsibility; but freedom of choice does not abrogate duty—it creates it.

So long as our mothers had to unmurmuringly accept the dictum, "God sends the babies," there was no duty in the matter, but with the choice comes the moral obligation.

If a woman is fitted physically, morally and mentally to have children, it is obviously her duty to her country to have them, since its very existence depends on her having them. If England is to live she must be populated, and if the work of populating her is left to the improvident breeder of the slums she will soon be at the mercy of a worse enemy than the Germans—the ignorant mob.

This is obvious with adult suffrage facing us, and the slum-dwellers reproducing themselves at their present rate.

In St. George's and St. Stephen's, two of the poorest districts in the City of Birmingham, the birth-rate for 1908 was 35.8 per thousand; in Hampstead, one of the healthiest and most flourishng suburbs of London, it was 1.49!

Babies that are Never Born.

The humanitarians are continually crying out about the loss to the national exchequer through the high-rate of infant mortality; but the greatest loss to the national exchequer is the babies that are never born!

The babies who die are the children who, if they lived, would be of the least value to the State; the children who would fill our hospitals and prisons, and add to the complication of the already complicated problem of the over-crowded slum.

They are the children of the diseased, of the criminal, of the ill-fed, of the factory working mother, and of the drunkard, and they would be handicapped by heredity and by environment from contributing by living to the welfare of the State.

Already, Science, in her eagerness to circumvent Nature, keeps alive too many of the physically and mentally defective, and puts an undue strain on national and individual self-sacrifice.

The high daring and proud tradition preserved by our aristocracy, the industry, thrift and morality represented by our great middle-classes, are being rapidly lost to England by this silent revolt of her women.

The superior mechanic, even, is already beginning to be infected with this falsely-called "Malthusianism," but in limiting his family he reaps the just benefits of applying its principles, though he is hastening the crisis.

The Way to the Divorce Court.

Marriage, however, with the ideal of family life eliminated, is little better than free love, and tends to lead, as has just been pertinently pointed out by Mr Justice Bargrave Deane, to the Divorce Court. From this Judge's own observations, out of 187 undefended divorce cases that came before him in 1908, in 87 there were no children, in 43 there was one, in 35 there were two, in 12 there were three, in two there were four, in two there were five, and in two there were six.

This shows clearly the effect of the childless marriage on public morality.

In the days when families were not regarded as optional, parents cheerfully sacrificed themselves for their children; in fact, the tendency was to carry the sacrificing too far; but to-day sacrificing is out of fashion.

As far as possible, discipline is being eliminated from life, a child's lessons must take the form of play, and be unsuspected, pain must be deadened by anæsthetics, and the luxuries of yesterday are the necessities of to-day.

Besides wanting luxuries for themselves, people want luxuries for their children, and the money that will provide luxuries for two children will only provide necessaries for six.

Boys must be sent to swagger schools, girls must be expensively dressed, both must be given the best possible "start" in life, and the fact is overlooked that in being given so much start they lose the moral fibre that they would have gained in making it for themselves. But this false Malthusianism serves chiefly as a screen for the modern woman's revolt against child-bearing, a revolt not incomprehensible, but reactionary and natural. Women have been so long enslaved by a chance physical trait that they are inclined to rebel against any curtailing of their liberty.

The Sacrifice of Motherhood.

After all, so long and so often as our grandmothers could have children, so long and so often they did. "It is what you must expect when you are married," was the simple summing-up of the situation.

The sacrifice involved was accepted as casually as involuntary sacrifices are usually accepted, and if the sacrificing were overdone it became a grievance—of the *husband!*

The first child was his due, the tenth was an offence! There is no woman the modern woman pities more than her own grandmother, but the venerable lady is ungrateful and inclined to return the compliment. Yet both are to be pitied, for both are the victims of extremes, the over-burdened and the childless.

Many men accept the Malthusian excuse, and cherish the fallacy that all good women desire children; it is a fallacy that dies hard in spite of statistics. All good women, however, do *not* desire children, and of those who do desire them some are held back by fear from having them. The painful terrifies them, and in spite of anæsthetics, giving birth is still a painful process, and they shrink from voluntarily facing it.

Such women are mercifully few, but they exist. The child of such a mother was recently born in an asylum through her sheer dread of the event.

For the many the sacrifice is too great, and it is magnified to-day as it was minimized yesterday. Women have more and pleasanter things to do now than have children. They tell you they want to Live, with a capital L. Health, Liberty, Pleasure are their gods, and they are Free. Child-bearing was their yoke, and they are throwing it off.

"The Cult of the Individual" (whatever that may mean!) absorbs the intellectual. To voluntarily forego health and time so already crowded there must be strong inducement, and a family obviously fails to offer it.

"Duty" must step in if the nation is to be saved.

Motherhood must be recognized as a duty to the State if the State is to continue to exist.

Here is woman's opportunity for patriotism. England can live without her vote; it cannot live without her children.

MINISTERS AND MORALS IN NEWCASTLE —AND ELSEWHERE.

A "HOLY CRUSADE" OF FLAMING WORDS.

We have long noted a tendency on the part of some of the parsons to compete with some of the Sunday newspapers in the provision of sensationalism for the masses. It is only a week or two since Canon Southwell, attacking the "social impurity of Newcastle District," made the extraordinary statement that under cover of the darkness impurity was carried on in the auditoriums of the theatres and music halls while the performance was going on upon the stage. Naturally, verbal extravagance of this kind aroused the indignation of every decent citizen of Newcastle. Anything is possible anywhere to cads and brutes, but one need not specially go to places of public entertainment to find them. The records of Divorce Court and Police Court have revealed them before to-day in pulpit as well as pew. In a word, Canon Southwell's accusation grossly slanders Newcastle audiences.

Observing that Canon Southwell was having too large a share of public attention in this matter, the Rev. Stanley Parker, a Wesleyan minister, took the first opportunity of being in the picture. He declared from his pulpit that he had recently spent twenty nights on the streets of Newcastle in company with other ministers, and "ventured to assert there were portions of Newcastle that at certain times rivalled Piccadilly itself. Every night the silent stars looked down on appalling things." Then he went on to speak of "young girls in the nameless army of vice," of men in drink "taken hold of by women of this class and literally dragged away," and all the rest of it. We are familiar with the story. The preachers have told it of every town, and the rev. gentleman took all the glare off the scene at the end of his discourse. "A widely-asked question," said he, "is, 'Is Newcastle worse than other centres?' I don't think it is." Of course not. Neither for Newcastle nor any other town is the existence of these things a revelation. They are a phenomenon of universal history; and the Chief Constable of Newcastle must settle with Canon Southwell and the Rev. Stanley Parker and the City Council whether the police do their duty or not.

Having exposed a social condition of affairs of which everybody is aware, will these two rev. gentlemen suggest what is rather less obvious—a means of getting rid of it? For instance, what have the clergy and ministers of Newcastle done, what are they doing, to get rid of it? One would imagine, from the way the Rev. Stanley Parker talks, that these women follow the calling of vice for the love of vice. Vice is their living. Practically it is their only means of living. If the rev. gentleman wants to dissolve the vice in the abounding virtue of the community, the first thing he has to do is to provide them with some other means of living. We repeat, what have the clergy and ministers of Newcastle done to deal practically with the evil? How many women, how many young girls and women have they rescued from the "nameless army of vice" and put on their feet again in the world of respectability they have lost? Let them tell us all about this side of the question, of which we know too little, and never mind about the other, of which we know too much. "Distinguished ministers of the Established Church," declared the rev. gentleman from his pulpit, "have spoken in words of flame, and have declared there must be a holy crusade against the startling vices of the city." Does he suppose that this social evil, common to every village and town of the five continents, is to be destroyed by words of flame and holy crusades? He may as well scratch the dome of St. Paul's to rouse the Dean and Chapter. If he and they preached and crusaded at these women till the Last Trump they would abate nothing of the evil. Sermons and holy crusades may succeed in getting it moved on from one house to another, from one street to another, or from one town to another, and probably, if by reason of the increased activities of the police, Newcastle's "unnamed army of vice" was to be driven into some other city, where he could not see it, the rev. gentleman would mount his pulpit in exultation that the words of flame and the crusade of holiness had won the victory for righteousness. Truth is, the problem to be solved is not one for the mere "holy crusader" at all. One has not necessarily to wear a white tie in order to see with one's eyes. It matters hardly anything what the Rev. Stanley Parker and his ministerial friends have seen; once more, we ask them to tell us what they have practically done. Nay, they need not trouble. We know. They have practically done—nothing.

THE "JOHN BULL" COAL CLUB.

OUR SCHEME FOR SECURING FOR "JOHN BULL" READERS THE BEST QUALITY OF COAL ALL THE YEAR ROUND, AT A UNIFORM WHOLESALE PRICE.

We regret that, owing to the heavy work involved in correspondence, etc., we have been unable to make any further announcement in regard to this scheme until now. We have also been waiting for the fixing of the Club's prices, based upon the official summer quotations.

Such prices will be as follows:—

	Per ton.
Best Selected Silkstone	23s.
Best Derby Brights	22s.
Best House Nuts	21s.
Best Kitchen Coal	20s.
Best Kitchen Nuts	19s.

There may not be a very considerable difference between the prices of the leading merchants and those of the Club in summer—possibly only 1s. 6d. to 2s. per ton—but the difference naturally widens out in the winter months.

In answer to many inquiries, we may say that clubs and hotels which are regular subscribers to JOHN BULL will be eligible for membership of the Coal Club, and the same right will also attach to all present annual subscribers.

We desire again to make it quite clear that we do not propose in any way to interfere with the work of retail newsagents, it being open to any reader of JOHN BULL to give an order to his newsagent for the supply of the paper for at least a year, and to then send us the newsagent's certificate—a form of which will be forwarded on application.

MEMBERSHIP.

To become a member of the Club it will be necessary only to send one year's postal subscription (6s. 6d.) to JOHN BULL in advance, or a newsagent's certificate stating that a copy has been ordered every week for twelve months.

BENEFITS.

1. Uniform quality of coal. The coals will *be only the best obtainable* for their various uses.
2. The coals will be fresh-wrought and delivered direct.
3. A saving of 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per ton (perhaps more).
4. *A fixed price throughout the year* for each quality.

There will be no necessity to take in stocks of coal at "Lowest Summer Prices," involving considerable outlay.

AREA OF DELIVERY.

Free deliveries will be made anywhere in London within a radius of 8 miles from the General Post Office. An extra charge—in proportion to the distance outside that radius—will be made for delivery to other places to cover the actual increased cost of cartage. Truck loads varying from 6½ to 10 tons will also be sent to any station.

The Club will have the services of a Manager who has had a long and thorough experience with all classes of coal, and also of an expert analyst who has had vast experience in analysing coals for theoretical and practical purposes.

A central office of the Coal Club will shortly be opened. In the meantime, all communications should be addressed to the Secretary, John Bull Coal Club, 67, Long Acre.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

The Secretary replies to our recent questions:—

SIR,—I am desired by Mr. Yerburgh, who only last evening returned from Italy, to state that his attention has been directed to the note in your issue of June 4 relating to the disposition of the Trafalgar Day Fund, raised on his initiative for the Navy League. He desires me to inform you that the balance-sheet, in which this fund, which stands in the name of the Duke of Somerset, Lord Ampthill, and of himself, as trustees, will be included, will be issued in due course, as is customary with the League accounts, showing a working for twelve months, but, in view of the special information you ask for with regard to it, the total amount received to date is £1,848 19s. 11d., and is devoted to special purposes approved of by the Executive Committee of the Navy League, and is not employed for the ordinary expenses of the Society.

For example, up to the present, donations have been made from it to the Lancashire Navy League Sea Training Home, to the Training Brigs at Windsor and Reading, and the Boys' Brigade attached to the Paddington Branch of the Navy League. A special contribution was to have been made on Empire Day for the purpose of bringing up boys to London for the celebration, but this was cancelled owing to the national loss.

I am, yours faithfully,
WM. CAIUS CRUTCHLEY,
Secretary.

CHAS. A. STOBART is urged to communicate at once with his wife at 4, Victoria Place, South Shields.

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.—XCIV.

Are there any of our readers who would care to lend a hand to the writer of the following letter, who makes a sad appeal and is a worthy object of assistance?

> My husband has been dead ten month and left me with two children, the youngest fourteen months old. I have tried hard to get work and support my dear children and keep a small room together, but am weak and ill through lack of nourishment, and my little ones are short of food and have hardly any clothing to cover them. I feel I have almost come to the end of my struggle, and that the few sticks I have got now must go. What will become of us after, I am afraid to think of. Could any of your readers give me a little help so that I may try and get strength to struggle on. I should be so grateful.

HUMAN DOCUMENT XCI.

It may be remembered that this was an appeal sent to us by Mr. J. C. Adcock on behalf of an engineer of excellent character, who, from no fault of his own, was out of employment and in desperate need. We have now received a letter from Mr. Adcock acknowledging the receipt of various sums of money from our readers, informing us that several offers of employment have been received by him, that he hopes to obtain a suitable post on the Glasgow and South Western Railway, and thanking all who have helped him in his extremity, not forgetting JOHN BULL. It is always a pleasure to us to know that an appeal in this column has been the means of relieving distress.

On behalf of Human Document 53, we have received £12 from B.R.G. and Co., which has been forwarded.

We have received the following monies on behalf of the wife and children of Patrick Hayes, which have been remitted:—J. F. S., 20s.; A. L., 2s. 6d.; Territorial, 1s.; F. V. W., 2s. 6d.; H. M. C., 1s.; M. E. A., 2s. 3d.; J. M. G., 2s. 6d.; A Well-Wisher, 20s.

We have received, on behalf of Human Document 93, the following monies, which have been remitted to him:—S., 5s.; T. W. G., 1s.; Old Carthusian, 2s. 6d.; E.C., 5s.

A CAMBERWELL SCANDAL.

ROBBING THE RATEPAYERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SALVATION ARMY.

It will, no doubt, be news to the ratepayers of Camberwell to learn that they are helping the Salvation Army with its Blackfriars Shelter. Some few days ago we received a postcard on which was written, "Good meat pies at S.A. Shelter, Blackfriars. Puzzle: Find out where the meat comes from."

Now we happen to have on our staff one who is good at conundrums, so we set him on the job. Here is his report:—

After waiting outside the shelter for some hours, I was rewarded by seeing one of the "submerged" leaving its doors wheeling a coster's barrow.

I followed him, and found his destination to be the Camberwell Infirmary, which he entered. I had not long to wait outside the gates before the man and the barrow again made their appearance—this time loaded.

Assuming an official air, I said, "What have you got here?"

"Meat given by the Infirmary to the Salvation Army."

I next inspected the zinc bin in which the meat was stowed. To my surprise it contained at least 50lbs. of prime beef, mutton and pork. Not scrap meat, but good joints, three of which had not been cut from at all. The man informed me that he usually got about the same quantity every day.

"What's done with it?" I asked. "We make meat pies of it," was his reply.

Subsequently I visited the Shelter, and had a talk with the officer in charge, Adjutant Cooper.

The average number of inmates at this Shelter is 500. Each man is charged 5d. per night, including supper, the value of one penny, and breakfast on a smaller scale.

But should the men be possessed of cash and wish to buy more food, they can do so.

So the puzzle is solved! The hard-working Camberwell ratepayers provide some 50 lbs. of prime meat daily for the Salvation Army. It is clear that much more meat is ordered for the Camberwell Infirmary than is required. The value of the meat given to the Army comes to about £15 a week.

Are there no deserving poor in Camberwell itself who would be glad of a little free food? What have the Guardians to say for themselves?

We consider it a grave scandal that ratepayers should be bled to benefit the Salvation Army—for it must be remembered that none of this meat is *given away*. It is *sold*.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

HOW ITS "REPORTS" ARE PREPARED.

In our issue of April 2nd we directed attention to the case of Mr. Samuel Collier, who had been discharged by the London Underground Electric Railways for a reason which, as it seemed to us, was insufficient. On the day of the offence, Collier was assistant station master at the Down Street and Dover Street Stations. It was a Sunday, and he had been brought up to the station from another part of the town, and had been on duty some nine hours. Having nothing with him to eat, he went across the road and got a glass of bitter and a sandwich. He was reported as having been in a public-house whilst on duty, and was dismissed. Collier is a man with an excellent record. Prior to going to the railway company he had been four years with the telephone company, and before that six years in the 2nd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, and his record throughout was excellent. We are delighted to be able to say that since we referred to the matter, Collier's case has been reconsidered by the railway authorities, who have seen their way to take him back into their service, although in a position less responsible than that from which he was removed. In the interval, Collier has had to part with most of his belongings in order to get food for his wife and children, but we hope that before very long he will have got his home together again, and we are confident that the railway company will not regret their action in taking him back.

Our object, however, at the moment is to direct attention to the conduct of the Charity Organisation Society. Whilst Collier was out of employment he wrote to the Colonel of his old regiment, Col. Maxse, to ask him to plead for him with the railway authorities, and the Colonel replied that he had made enquiries about his recent record through the Charity Organisation Society, and that it was not satisfactory. In these circumstances the Colonel did not see his way to help. We have not seen the report of the Charity Organisation Society upon the case, but we are assured that no representative of the Society called upon Collier or his wife, or had any communication with the landlord in whose house these people were living. Now we should have thought that before the Society took upon itself to do what might well be irreparable harm to a man, they would have taken care to interview him, to call at his house and see what sort of a man he was, what sort of appearance the house had, and to have a chat with the landlord as to the character of his tenant. Nothing of this was done, and yet the Society thought itself justified in sending a very adverse report to Colonel Maxse. Fortunately it has not had the disastrous consequences for Collier that it might have had, but it prevented the Colonel from assisting him, and but for the action of the railway company Collier might have found it quite impossible to get employment.

THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN.

THE COMMANDANT-GENERAL REPLIES TO OUR RECENT PARAGRAPH.

Apropos the paragraph which appeared in our last issue, Col. Sir Wm. Serjeant, the Commandant-General of the Legion of Frontiersmen, writes us that our information must have been derived from some of the many imperfect, and even misleading notices of the recent annual general meeting of the Legion. His exact words were:—"Now Lord Esher has a sum of money, a privately-provided fund, to assist in the work of recruiting, and he wants boys to be prepared to take up military duties in the Territorial Force. Why should we not assist him in getting these boys? . . . . We have reason to believe that we may get some of that fund, provided we are able to offer a *quid pro quo* in the shape of recruits for the Territorial Force from certain sections of the Boy Scouts." The Legion, he says, is composed entirely of soldiers who have rendered the best of services to the Empire, and are genuine frontiersmen. The 100,000 Boy Scouts referred to had nothing to do with the Baden-Powell organisation, though Sir Robert Baden-Powell is aware of the valuable assistance given to the Boy Scout movement by the Legion, and is utilising a very large number of its members as Scout Masters. Sir William takes strong exception to the reference to "toy shops," on the ground that the "toys" of members of his organisation are composed entirely of weapons which they have used to good effect in advancing the interests of John Bull throughout the world. He adds that Frontiersmen are all readers of JOHN BULL, and that their aims are very similar to those of the John Bull League. We must reconsider matters.

First Workman: "I've just bin buyin' some o' them Domes o' Silence."
Second Workman: "Wot are you going to do with 'em?"
First Workman: "Fix 'em on the missis!"

(Reproduced by kind permission of "London Opinion.")

We offer £10 for the best suggestion for a sketch, from the ladies' point of view, replying to the above.

The DOMES OF SILENCE,
5, HOPETOUN,
5, LLOYD'S AVENUE, LONDON, E.C.

Domes of Silence are obtainable from Ironmongers, Cutlers, Stores, Drapers, etc., 6d. for 4.

[ADVT

"HOMESTEADS, LIMITED."

MORE COMPLAINTS.

We have received a complaint from a holder of a certificate in Homesteads, Ltd., which, as we think, deserves the attention of the managers of that Institution. William Gifford Noye, of 50, Johnston Terrace, Devonport, a sailor, took out a certificate in February, 1907, for £300. He was to pay 5s. per month on each £100, and he has paid altogether £30. In the book issued by Homesteads, Ltd., the certificate holder is told what he will get in return for his monthly payments, and we quote as follows :—

> A man pays a monthly premium of 5s. per £100, receiving generous compound interest on his subscriptions, and is entitled, after a minimum membership of one year, to apply for an advance wherewith to acquire a freehold home in any part of the country he likes.

Here it will be noticed that the certificate holder is promised "generous compound interest," but when Noye applied to the Company for a plot of land marked in the Company's catalogue plot 46, and priced at £35, he was told that they did not propose to allow him any interest on the £30 paid in. We do not see how that can be reconciled with the very specific statement we have quoted above. But that is not Noye's only complaint. As we have said, he wished to purchase plot 46, and this is marked in the catalogue at the price of £35, but when he applied to the Company they wrote as follows under date May 30th :—

> We now send you a form of contract for your signature for plot 46 at Balstonia, which please sign at the foot and return to us. You will notice the price of the land is £40, and we shall be glad to learn how you wish to pay the balance of the purchase money.

With this letter they sent Noye a receipt note which credited him with £30, but gives him no credit for interest, and putting the purchase money at £40, leaves him indebted £10.

Noye's complaint is :—

(1) That he was promised "generous interest," when as a matter of fact, no interest at all is paid, and

(2) That he selected a plot which the Company agreed to sell him, and that although the plot was marked in the Company's catalogue at the price of £35, when the contract came to be made out they charged him £40.

This does not seem quite according to Cocker!

THE LAW SOCIETY.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT EXIST?

In our issue of March 5th we directed attention to a complaint we had received from a correspondent who had asked the Law Society to examine the professional conduct of a solicitor who had supported the application by affidavits as to the solicitor's misconduct, and who had been informed in reply that the Law Society was not prepared to go into the matter. Among other things our correspondent alleged that the solicitor in question was working in concert with a man called William Johnson for the purpose of defrauding the public of monies. A few days ago this man Johnson was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud, and "with obtaining small sums of money by false pretences from a large number of persons." Two previous convictions were proved against him, and he was sentenced by Judge Rentoul to 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour. It was stated in the course of the proceedings that in a very short time over £3,000 was received into the banking account of these people. A full report of the case may be seen by those interested in the matter in the *Daily Telegraph* of June 4th.

Our correspondent alleged that a part of the misconduct of the solicitor consisted of "associating with disreputable persons and carrying on business with them." The Law Society informed our correspondent, through Mr. Waller Sinclair, Clerk to the Committee, that his charges did not disclose a case inwhich they could properly order an enquiry. But it disclosed a *prima facie* case in support of the contention that the solicitor was associated with a disreputable person; in a disreputable business, and we should have thought that was enough to move the Law Society, which is supposed to have the interests and honour of the solicitors' profession in their keeping, to inquiry. But they refused, and now we have it disclosed in a Court of Justice that the rogue with whom the solicitor was alleged to be associating has defrauded the public to the tune of £3,000!

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

President—Horatio Bottomley, Esq., M.P.

Objects: To stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to create a robust and self-reliant Public Opinion; and to promote a Common Sense, Business Government for a Common Sense, Business People.

METROPOLITAN BRANCHES.

We are on the point of completing the Local Registers for the Metropolitan area, which has proved a task of some magnitude. We are about to convene a meeting of the Local Secretaries already appointed, with a view to placing before them a definite scheme for consolidating the Branches.

Our thanks are due to a large number of Local Secretaries who regularly send us newspaper cuttings and other details of local matters, all of which are receiving our careful attention, and as space permits we are dealing with them in the columns of this journal. Judging by the large number of applications we are receiving for membership of the League the work of the Local Secretaries in making known its objects is bearing good fruit. We would, however, urge them to still greater effort, so that by the date of the Anniversary Meeting in London we may be in a position to announce, as we have every reason to believe we shall be able to do, that the League has doubled its membership since its inauguration. We shall not rest until we are a million strong, and then we shall not go to sleep. The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and it may be found necessary to curtail to some extent our programme of meetings, but in the early days of the autumn we shall start a vigorous campaign throughout the country. In view of the present uncertain political outlook members must be prepared for an early call to arms. The dawn of the Business Government is daily growing nearer, and before the next General Election is upon us we must have our forces organised and ready to strike a blow for political freedom and independence.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Encouraged by our success, an organisation, calling itself The Business League, has sprung into existence, having similar objects to our own. We are not jealous, and we welcome all advocates of a Business Government, whatever they may call themselves.

Every post brings us letters from readers of this journal asking to be enrolled as members of the League. It will materially assist the staff if readers will kindly note that it is essential that the coupon at foot should be signed and forwarded to the Central Office or to the nearest Local Secretary.

Concurrently with this increase in membership, we have to record a brisk demand for Badges. We hope every member of the League will make a point of possessing one. They can be obtained from any Local Secretary or the Central Office, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

THE BRISTOL MEETING.

Owing to the uncertain political situation, and the pressure of the President's Parliamentary duties, we have reluctantly been compelled to postpone the above meeting, which had provisionally been fixed for Friday week, the 24th inst.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

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A PEACEFUL INVASION OF GERMANY.

By J. B. Greenway.

It has become a common practice with political bodies to send parties of working-men to Germany to study the conditions of life in that country. Tours lasting from ten to fifteen days, embracing many of the largest and busiest cities, have been arranged by the supporters of Tariff Reform, who are anxious that the English working-man shall have the opportunity of observing for himself how his German cousin fares in a country which has adopted the principles of Protection.

As a counterblast, the English political Labour Party lately organised a tour covering very much the same ground as that chosen by their political opponents.

In the one case it is hoped that where it is found that the conditions of life are better than in England the superiority will be attributed to the beneficial effect of Protection. In the other case it is confidently hoped that any disadvantages under which the German may be found to be labouring as compared with the English workman will be ascribed to the same cause.

The visiting parties have naturally but a very short time allotted to their stay in each town; the length of their programme excludes the possibility of an exhaustive investigation, the extent of the itinerary necessitating in many cases a perfunctory examination; besides which, a considerable part of the time must be occupied in railway travelling.

It should not therefore be possible for any argument in support of the principles of either Free Trade or Protection based upon so superficial and hurried an examination to carry conviction.

At the same time these visits are wholly productive of good in that they give opportunities to a number of working-men to compare for themselves the conditions under which the foreigner lives with those which prevail in this country. Each man on his return reports to his own circle of friends and acquaintances the result of his observations.

From the reports which are published by the authority of the bodies of working-men who have returned from their visits it is clear that every opportunity has been afforded them of inspecting those quarters of the towns where the poorer classes live.

If they carried their investigations no further, I am prepared to maintain that the expense of their visit has been amply repaid. To the Englishman, accustomed to the unwholesome surroundings in which his fellow-workmen in the large English towns live, the appearance of the workmen's dwellings in German towns must come as a revelation.

If he renders a truthful account of what he has seen he must admit that the slum which is so conspicuous and so unsavoury a feature of our large cities has no parallel in Germany. That there is poverty in that country it would be idle to deny, but the absence of filth and squalor robs it of half its horror. Amongst the men of the upper classes in Germany it is the custom to adopt the latest English fashions of dress; the Bond Street exquisite is their model, but lower down the scale we do not set the tone. The German working classes, both men and women, set an example of neatness in dress which might well be copied in this country.

The sloven and the slut are hard to find in Germany, and the cleanliness of their persons as well as their homes points to a higher standard of comfort and health.

But can it be seriously argued that Protection is responsible for the improved conditions of life amongst the working classes?

It is difficult for one nurtured in the principles of Free Trade to abjure his faith, but if it can be shown that the adoption of a tariff will cleanse our slums and make the lot of our poor more tolerable, I will gladly advocate Protection on the platform and at the street corner.

To arrive at the real cause of the conditions, the outward and visible effects of which have left so deep an impression upon the working-men who have been fortunate enough to be included in the visiting parties, is it not necessary to have some acquaintance with the history, both political and economic, of the nation whose marvellous progress has arrested the attention of all thoughtful people?

There is no subject which I have studied so industriously as the development of the German nation during the past hundred years, and my reading together with a personal acquaintance with German life and conditions, and German people of all degrees and classes—an acquaintance which commenced more than a score of years ago—leads me to the conviction that the foundations of Germany's unparalleled prosperity to-day were laid in her adversity one hundred years ago.

At the time when the country was groaning under the heel of Napoleon, cut to pieces by the foreign invader, exhausted by requisitions and contributions of war, burdened with the support of a French army, she touched the bottom of poverty, yet found in the crisis of her financial ruin the beginning of a worthier national life.

The very extremity of her sufferings taught her the invaluable lessons of thrift and frugality. For three generations Germany has had an uphill fight. Less favoured than France and England in the fruitfulness of her soil she has had a hard struggle to wrest a living from the land. To-day Germany is reaping the benefit of the hardshipss suffered by her forbears; her men and women are still imbued with the spirit of thrift and frugality practised by their parents and grandparents. As an instance of this, it has often surprised me to see how far a German will make his money go: he insists upon getting full value for his mark (shilling).

The same qualities of thrift are apparent in the German woman. To her training she owes her gift of making the most of a slender income, and this in spite of the fact that she has not the natural gifts of her less ponderous English cousin.

The qualities to which I have referred are also fostered by the military training which Germany gives all her sons; moreover, other valuable lessons are taught which stand the German in good stead when he leaves the army and returns to civil life. During the period of his military service he learns to give instant and unquestioning obedience to the commands of those in authority; the lessons he learns from a cast-iron and invariable routine teach him the advantage of shaping his acts according to a system, whilst scrupulous cleanliness is rigidly enforced on every man. By constant use and practice these qualities become habits which govern his life and form an invaluable equipment for the German citizen; in a word he has become disciplined. It is discipline which is the paramount factor in the wholesome conditions of the German workman's life. It is discipline which is telling in the struggle for industrial supremacy. It is discipline which has made the German our successful rival in those industries in which we used to flatter ourselves that we were *hors de concours*.

It is exactly this lesson which I have learnt from a study, sedulously pursued for nearly a quarter of a century, of German life and methods.

To those who are bent upon attributing the superior conditions of life surrounding the German working classes to-day to the benefits of a high tariff let me point out this significant fact: before modern Germany could advance one step along the road of material progress the irksome and irritating barriers of protective tariffs which all the petty German states set up against their neighbours had to be swept away.

"JOHN BULL" AND THE MONEY LENDERS.

Apropos our exposures of Cox and Co. and Seymour and Whiteman, we have been very pleased to receive the following letter from the Rev. Herbert Williams:—

> I want to tell you one of the many results of your remarks *re* money-lenders and myself. It brought a man Brown to me whose goods had been sold under B. of S. I saw that Whiteman, *alias* Cobb and Co., Hill and Co., Cox and Co. had broken the law. I got the Public Prosecutor to take up the case, and Whiteman was fined £100 and costs.
>
> We then took civil action for wrongful distraint, and obtained £15 damage and full costs for the poor man. The man came to-day to thank me, and gave me £1 for the poor parish where I minister. Not a bad ending, was it, to your kind remarks?

"A Free Bath Chair on Offer."—In response to our paragraph under this heading, we have had an enormous number of letters from readers who all make out a good case for the loan of the chair, so kindly offered by our correspondent. In these circumstances we thought the best thing we could do was to send on the letters to him, and to ask him to make his own selection. Accordingly we have done so.

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THE LAW GUARANTEE, TRUST AND ACCIDENT SOCIETY.

WHAT THE SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD DO.

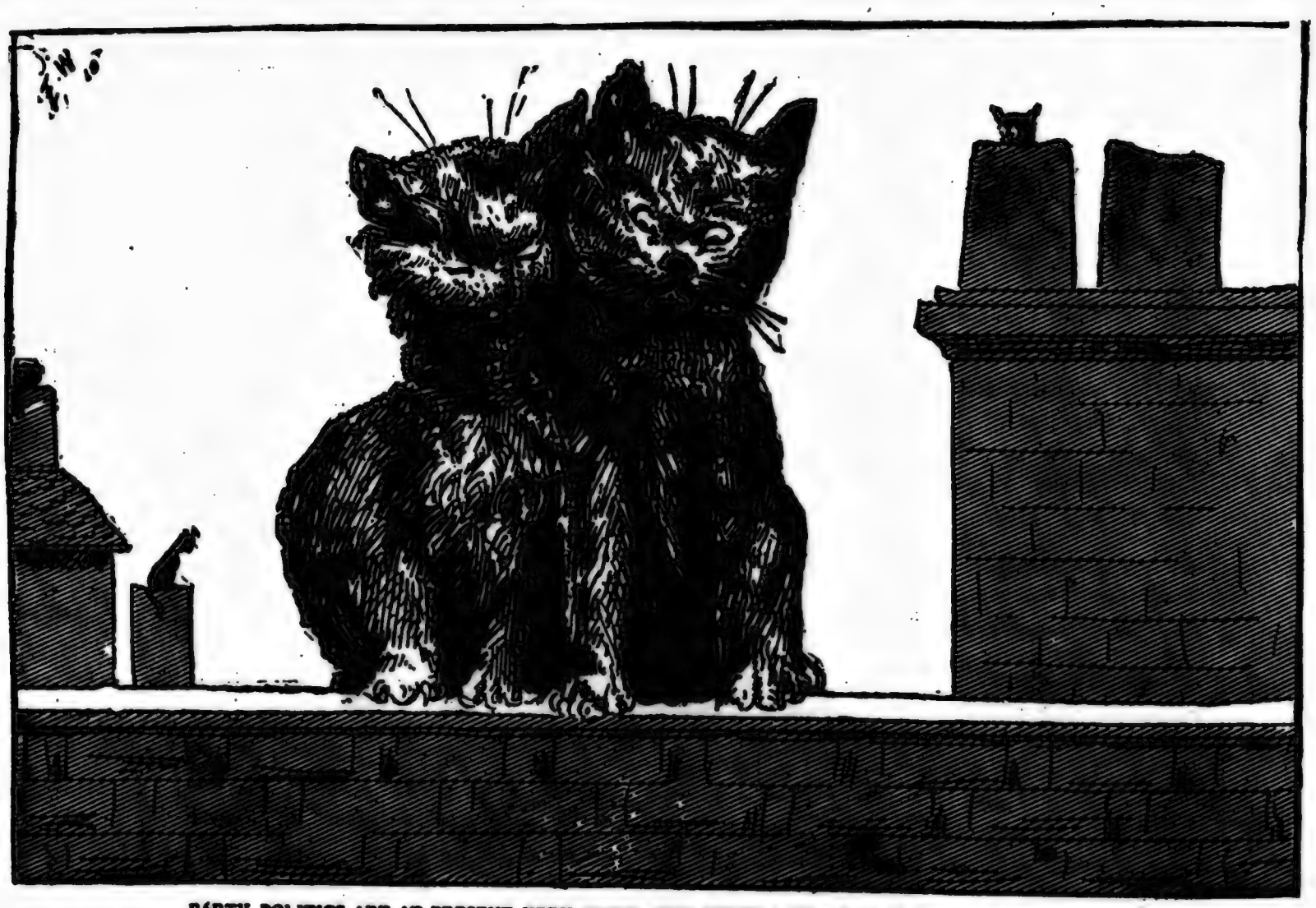
A large portion of the business of this Society consisted of advances upon hotel and public house property. The losses in this direction are so large as to be incomprehensible. It has been hinted—indeed it was alleged at the meeting of shareholders—that much of this loss is due to the valuations of Mr. Ronald, junr., a son of the General Manager and Secretary. We expressed our opinion at the time as to the action of the Board in making this gentleman their valuer.

The appointment was ill-advised and indefensible, but we are bound to say that many of the losses incurred are due to transactions for which he cannot justly be held responsible. For a long time the valuers to the Society were Messrs. Wetherall and Green, of Chancery Lane, a highly reputable firm, and the rule of the Society was to guarantee no more than 55 per cent. upon the valuation of these gentlemen. Now 55 per cent. must be considered an ample margin, even by the most conservative management, yet time and again guarantees made under these conditions quickly resulted in loss. For example, in 1902 the proprietors of the Tudor Hotel in Oxford Street, now known as the Hotel Richelieu, obtained a loan from the Society of £15,000. Messrs. Wetherall and Green had valued the property as worth £28,500, and they found that the net profits of the preceding year were £1,700. Yet 18 months after the guarantee was given the hotel had to be taken over by the Society, which afterwards sold it to the Geneva Club for £12,000. Immediately upon the advance guaranteed by the Society—the terms being 4½ per cent. and ½ per cent. for the guarantee—the hotel was placed under the management of Mr. Montagu Hayden, and, whether it was his fault or not, the fact remains that 18 months of his management converted the net profit of £1,700 per annum into a loss that necessitated liquidation.

The Tudor Hotel was not the only one by many that had to be taken over by the Society. There was, for example, the Royal Hotel at Ventnor, a fine old house, but which did not thrive long after the Society became interested in it. Altogether the Society became interested in some ten hotels, all of which, in 1906, they placed under Mr. Montagu Hayden's management. It is difficult to understand how they justified this appointment. Their official connection with Mr. Hayden had hitherto been limited to the 18 months when the Tudor Hotel was passing from a profitable concern into a bankrupt one. What was it that moved the Directors to select Mr. Hayden as the man to look after their interests in the large number of hotels in different parts of the country whose debentures they had guaranteed?

Much the same sort of questions may be asked in connection with the Society's relations with public-houses. Here, again, they advanced large sums of money, and have been heavy losers, but the curious management that has led to disaster for the hotels is to be found in the public-houses. For example, the Society became interested some years ago in the "Greyhound" at Croydon—a very big house. In course of time they found it necessary to take it over, and they put in as manager Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes is a very competent man, and would have been an excellent person for the position if he had no other irons in the fire. But the "Greyhound" is essentially a house where it is necessary for the manager to give his whole time to it, and to have a wife to help him, but Mr. Rhodes' wife looks after his own house—the "Goat," in Stafford Street, off Bond Street—and, not content with giving Mr. Rhodes the "Greyhound" to manage, the Society made him manager of the Chatsworth Hotel, Brighton. Mr. Rhodes may be the most competent public-house manager in the country, but, with his wife looking after the "Goat," and himself having to attend to a Brighton hotel, the "Greyhound" was bound to suffer.

These incidents of faulty management—and many others might be cited—are of practical moment at the present time, because it may well be that if the hotel and public-house property taken over by the Society, and not as yet disposed of, were placed under competent management, the houses might be made prosperous concerns again to the enormous advantage of shareholders. From all we can learn the Society has not lost its money through too great leniency to its debtors. We have information that in many cases they were extremely harsh in their dealings with mortgagers, refusing to give them any sort of time or accommodation, when prudence would have suggested a very different course. Be that as it may, the whole facts connected with the collapse are of such an extraordinary character that we can only hope that shareholders will join together and do their best to insist upon that compulsory winding up which the circumstances of the case so strongly call for.



PARTY POLITICS ARE AT PRESENT VERY QUIET, BUT THEY'LL BE "AT IT" AGAIN BEFORE LONG.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Alfred Douglas.

Dear Bossie (to drop a title which is only yours by courtesy, and which your ideas of courtesy scarcely warrant),—I am glad you lost your theological libel case, as the Law Courts, according to your judge, must not become an annexe to the Corner House. I agree with you that counsel sometimes overdo their severity in dealing with recalcitrant witnesses, but I do not admire you as a champion of their cause. Dignified retorts would command respect, but you only expose yourself and others to rebuke when you behave like a petulant brat. It is neither funny nor clever to tell Sir Edward Carson that he reads like a child from a board-school, to accuse very learned counsel of crass ignorance, or to boast about the circles in which you move. The less you say about your own special orbit the better, I should imagine. I am glad Lord Robert Cecil, your own counsel, snubbed you when you tried to foist upon him some of your egregious views. I advise you to take a little religious instruction from your Methodist friend Crosland before you pose again as an authority on dogma. In order to be that, it is not sufficient to prove yourself dogmatic. Do try to be more ladylike. John Bull.

To the Chairman, Middlesex Sessions, Westminster.

Sir,—In the case of Lawrence Lionel Hardy, a sorting clerk who has been before the Highgate magistrates on two occasions and before the bench at last Quarter Sessions on a charge of cruelty to his child, an extraordinary statement is made in the Press. "The prisoner," it is said, "was remanded till next sessions, when, it was intimated, he would be bound over." In other words, the inhuman brute is to be let off without any sort of punishment whatever. Permit me to remind you what the facts of the case are. I have described Mr. Lawrence Lionel Hardy as an inhuman brute, and this characterisation, as far as I can see, is not to be qualified in any way whatever. Indeed, it is your own statement from the bench that "the case seemed to be one of those met with in fiction and occasionally in real life, of animosity against a child whose birth had deprived its mother of life."

What is the nature of the ill-treatment to which this father pleaded guilty? Take first of all the evidence of Dr. Jerman, the divisional police surgeon, who examined the child, a mite of 2½ years—"suffering from contusions and abrasions on forehead, eyes, both cheeks, and chin, behind right ear; fractured forearms, several bruises and weals on arms, forearms, and hands, several bruises on back, scar over left hip and abrasions over sacrum, scars on buttocks and legs, many bruises and weals on thighs, legs, and feet (more than forty of each), legs swollen, general tenderness all over legs and back." This was not the result of one angry beating. Three times a week since January this creature who, we are told, is to be "bound over" at next sessions, took the child upstairs and beat it with a belt, as well as with a cane split into six. The cold-blooded, fiendish deliberation of such systematic brutalities on a little child, with not a soul in the world to protect it, must sicken and revolt the mind. On one day in May, when the child's aunt went to the house, she found it groaning, and at every touch of her hand on its body it "cried out in pain." She took it to the hospital where it was described as in a "precarious condition." With all this in mind, with the thought of that little creature's long-suffering, with his unheeded cries and groans from that upstairs room almost audible to us, with the knowledge that children are birched and sent to reformatories for stealing a twopenny piece of coal, that honest men down on their luck are sent to gaol for begging a crust of bread, or peddling without a licence for which they are unable to pay, or sleeping in their homelessness under the watching stars—we are told that this pitiless, conscienceless ruffian of a father is to be let off. Meanwhile, the helpless, motherless little victim lies in hospital; his broken arms have had to be rebroken and set; the effects of some of his injuries will persist to the end of his days. And the author of his being and the author of his sufferings is to be allowed to go his free way in the world. Though it is almost incredible, the incredible sometimes happens, and if the bench of the Middlesex Sessions have decided that it shall happen in this case, then let us have at once over the portals, carved into the stone, "Clemency for fiends, but God help the little children." John Bull.

To Councillor J. H. Clutton, Mayor of Ramsgate, Kent.

My Dear Mr. Mayor,—I have had several opportunities of late of indulging myself in brilliant flashes of silence concerning the proceedings of the Ramsgate Town Council, an august body over which it is your duty and your custom to preside. Having read the report of the last meeting, however, I feel I must break the bonds of restraint, to tell you that I admire your Watch Committee almost as much as I admire the talented comedy artists who set the audiences in a roar on your beautiful beach. But for the *Thanet Advertiser* I should never have known how funny a Watch Committee can be. Pray convey to the editor of that organ the humble offering of my gratitude and esteem.

I see that the Committee brought up to the Council for approval a notice of "Public Warning" proposed to be "posted in conspicuous places in the gardens or public walks or pleasure grounds," intimating that no child under the age of 13 years shall be allowed in the gardens unless under the care and in the charge of a person not less than 16 years of age, and that all such children under 13, unless in charge as aforesaid, will in future be excluded from the gardens heretofore referred to under a penalty of £5. As the Council approved of the Committee's recommendation, I take it I must assume that in Ramsgate, during the coming season and until further notice, the only difference between children and dogs officially recognised will be a piece of string. Be assured, my dear Worship, that I shall come to your incomparable health resort at an early date in order to perceive somebody's toddles, caught wandering without visible means of subsistence and unable to give a satisfactory account of itself, solemnly run in by the policeman on the beat, prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law by the Town Clerk, and fined £5 by your worshipful self, and sent down for fourteen days' hard because it cannot find the money.

John Bull.

To Alderman Beecham, St. Helens, Lancs.

Dear Alderman,—Although by 14 votes to 13 the St. Helens Town Council have declined your generous proposal to provide two or three bands to play in the parks on Sundays, I have no doubt your fellow townsmen will appreciate your public spirit. Perhaps another Council may take a larger view of their obligations to the community on whose behalf they control the government of your busy town, and a larger view, too, of the harmless and pleasant enjoyment of the public leisure on Sunday. In that case I do not question that you will renew your offer. In spite of the vote of the Council, there is little doubt that if a vote of the townspeople were taken they would be found overwhelmingly in favour of accepting your offer. The parks are open; the people flock to them; and one difference by putting bands into them is that more people would probably be attracted to them by the music. To say that the Sunday is desecrated because the bands are there, to argue that the music would demoralise the people, is not only an absurdity, but an insult. In short, Sir, every argument against Sunday music is an argument against Sunday parks, and if the Sunday-spoilers of St. Helens and elsewhere were consistent they would crusade for the closing of all public gardens from Saturday night until Monday morning. But this question, as others touching its municipal life, St. Helens has in its own hands. And I shall hope to hear, after the next election, that the ratepayers have realised this fact. John Bull.

Dorling, Epsom Racecourse.

Hope no truth rumour workmen employed on Grand Stand had wages stopped day of King's Funeral. If so, every sportsman will be disgusted. Bull.

Ex-Roosevelt, Hamburg-Amerika Linie.

[Marconigram.]

Hope you will not be as sick as I am. Will ye no come back again? If you do, your motto must be: "Look on, or look out." Bull.

Lord Chancellor, London.

Notice fewer and fewer judges turning up Saturdays. Unless improvement shall have to put them all on piece-work—or dock them for lost time. Bull.

THE "OVERTURE": OR, THE "PIPE" OF PEACE.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

A General Rally on Favourable Monetary Prospects and Home Politics—Rubber Revival—The Yankee Market Still Depressed.

While a preliminary arrangement between President Taft and the Wall Street magnates concerning the freight rates has put an end to the acute phase which matters had reached, the market is still suffering from the aftermath of the Yankee collapse, and there were indications still in the last few days of the forced closing of some large accounts in *American Rails* and in *Copper Mines*. The weakness of the last-named is still reacting upon the Paris Bourse, where *Rio Tinto* have experienced a further fall, and these are frequently the leaders of the Paris market. Nor must it be forgotten that French houses were induced just prior to the collapse to take over 60 million dollars of *American Railroad Bonds*, so that they have a distinct grievance. But our markets generally have rallied under the lead of *Rubbers*, the favourable developments in the money market, and a turn in Home politics having provided an improved position. Money and politics are, after all, the chief governing factors on the Stock Exchange, and latest developments in connection with both have justifiably infused a fresh spirit of optimism with regard to the events of the near future. The period of cheap money was definitely ushered in on the 2nd inst. by a reduction in the Bank Rate to 3½ per cent., since when the position has continued to improve so rapidly (as is indicated by the fact that the Bank's gold reserve now stands at £32,000,000) that the authorities had no alternative on Thursday but to further reduce the official minimum to 3 per cent. Whether it will go still lower depends largely upon Continental and American developments, but it may be interesting to note that last year the Bank Rate ruled at 2½ per cent. from April 1 to October 7, although subsequent developments caused a gradual rise to 5 per cent., which level was maintained from October 21 to December 9. According to present indications, however, it is possible that the Bank Rate will not go over 4 per cent. this year. But this is not all. Latest indications point to the probability of a compromise between the great political parties on the Veto question. In that case the markets will be relieved from the fear of further political unsettlement, and be able to go ahead full speed again. A fresh impetus will doubtless also be given to the flotation of new enterprises of all kinds, although in this connection it is believed that *Rubber* and *Oil* propositions will still get most prominent.

A Strong Rebound in Rubber and Rubber Shares—A Bear Squeeze—Reports of a Rubber Shortage confirmed.

A week ago I wrote amidst severe depression in the Rubber Market, when all manner of bearish rumours were set about and a further heavy fall was predicted. I pointed out, however, that the favourable statistics did not bear these views out. Nor did Rubber consent to give way, and after rallying from 8s. 10d. to 9s. 2d., has now advanced to 10s. 3d. for *fine hard Para*. As soon as the carry-over was surmounted, moreover, Rubber shares became very active and the Bears, in their frantic efforts to climb in, caused prices to rise, more especially Linggis, Vallambrosas and Anglo-Malays, which were oversold most. The recovery was, however, general, as will be gathered from the following table of representative high-class shares:—

Shares.	Price, April 25, 1910.	Price, June 7, 1910.	Price, June 13, 1910.
Anglo-Malay .. .. .. £1 ..	39s.	25s.	30s.
Linggi .. .. .. £1 ..	70s. 3d.	37s.	62s.
Peraks .. .. £1 ..	8 1-16	4⅞	6⅝
Selangor .. .. £1 ..	93s.	3£	3⅜
Allagar .. .. £1 ..	112s. 1½d.	5s. 9d.	8s. 3d.
Bukit Rajah .. .. .. £1 ..	24½	16½	20½
Golden Hope .. .. .. £1 ..	10⅜	6½	7⅝
Highlands .. .. £1 ..	10	5⅜	7⅜
Cons. Malay .. .. £1 ..	35s. 6d.	24s. 6d.	30s.
Johore Lan'a .. .. .. 10s. pd.	5⅜ pm.	1 pm.	2 pm.
London Asiatic .. .. .. £1 ..	19s.	12s. 6d.	16s. 9d.
Rubber Trust .. .. .. 10s. pd.	30s. 6d. pm.	2½ pm.	2½ p.xd.
Vallambrosa .. .. .. £1 ..	65s.	40s.	51s
Kamuning "A" .. .. .. 12s. pd.	19s. 3d.	6s. 6d. pm.	9s. 9d
Lanadron .. .. £1 ..	8	5⅛	6⅛
Straits (Bertam) .. .. .. £1 ..	12s. 6d.	6s. 9d.	9s.3d.
United Serdang .. .. .. £1 ..	8⅜	5⅛	7⅛
Sumatra Para .. .. £1 ..	20s. 9d.	11s.	14s. 6d.
United Sumatra .. .. .. £1 ..	20s. 6d.	9s.	13s.
Pataling .. .. £1 ..	8⅜	2⅛	3⅛
Kuala Lumpur .. .. .. £1 ..	13 13-16	2⅛	10⅛

It will be seen that the high prices of April last have not yet been reached, but the recovery is very substantial. It is, moreover, likely to make further progress as far as it is based upon the statistical position of crude rubber. The highly interesting address given by Mr. C. A. Lampard, the chairman of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., at last week's meeting, contained a clever exposition of the output of the commodity, which, in 1906, was 65,000 tons (of which 531 tons were cultivated rubber); in 1907, 69,000 tons including 1,133 tons cultivated; in 1908, 65,000 tons including 2,000 tons cultivated; in 1909, 69,000 tons including 4,000 tons cultivated. The production of wild rubber has not increased—in fact, it has decreased. Mr. Lampard expressed the strong opinion that the amount of rubber at the disposal of the world was owing chiefly to the great demands upon it by the motor industry, lower to-day than it had ever been at any previous time in the history of this trade. He also explained that the high prices have dictated a policy of living from hand to mouth both in Europe and in America. Their contracts in the East have already been made forward on the basis of 8s. for 1913, on the basis of 9s. for 1912, and for 1911 on a basis varying up to 11s. From all these points it is easy enough to draw the conclusion that there will probably be a shortage of rubber in the near future, and, as Mr. Lampard estimates the output of motor cars for next year in the United States alone at 300,000 with a consumption of 12 lbs. of rubber per car, or some 2,000 tons more, it is easy to see what will happen in the Rubber and Rubber share markets on a further important rise.

Oils Gradually Reviving—Latest Shell Developments—Awaiting Further Maikop News—Nigerian Weakness Disquieting.

There can be no doubt but that the drastic bouts of liquidation have done the oil share market a world of good, and during the last few days there have been indications of a gradual revival. Such a movement cannot, however, be expected to assume a permanent character until some definite news comes to hand from the Maikop field of the actual striking of oil in a number of wells. This would undoubtedly give the necessary impetus not only to this section, but even to the whole market. In the meantime, prices of *Maikop shares* have sunk to a very low level, offering very tempting opportunities to the speculator who can buy the shares and put them away for a time. A big bull account was revealed in Bakus at the settlement, with the result that these shares have dropped to 4s. 9d. *Russian Petroleum First and Second Debentures* have advanced to 99 and 65 respectively, on the satisfactory progress of the capital reorganisation scheme. The *Trinidad group* is in better odour, having also passed through the ordeal of severe spasms of liquidation, while a couple of encouraging cablegrams have come to hand from the *Petroleum Options*. The latter shares had been down to 2s., but subsequently rallied to 2s. 6d., and Trinidad Western have hardened to 3s. 6d. Market considerations have, for the time being, offset the favourable developments reported from the *Franklin Oil* property, and sales in anticipation of this week's special settlement have depressed the shares to 1½. These shares are attractive, as the company is already a producer. At the rate at which the wells are being sunk it should not be long before the company enters the list of dividend payers. As regards the older-established concerns, *Shell Transports* continue most prominent. These shares were depressed at one time below 93s., on the proposal to increase the capital by one million new £1 shares, but support was quickly forthcoming, raising the price again to 94s. The funds in question are required principally for the development of the company's oil properties in Borneo and Java, where recent oil discoveries are said to have greatly exceeded expectations. *Burmahs* are firm at 5 15-16, but *Scotch Oil* companies generally have not been much affected by hints of amalgamation. *Spies* have been a feature of weakness, falling to 23s. 6d., on Paris liquidation, and rallying partly to 25s. *Maikop Spics* have moved in sympathy, and are finally also hardening again at 15s. 6d. Lobitos have steadied at 30s., but *Pacific Oilfields* have remained under a cloud at 20s., and I do not see anything to go for in these shares, at any rate, for the moment. Mexican Eagle Preferred are steady at par, but the Standard Oil of England are the turn easier at 2s. 6d. The disquieting weakness of Nigerians has again been a feature, *Nigerian Bitumen* being now no better than ⅛, *Nigerian Investment* 1½.

Excellent May Gold Output of the Transvaal—Satisfactory Native Labour Figures—A Sharp Rally in Sight as Soon as Paris Shakes off the Depression—Rhodesians and West Africans Marking Time.

The gold output of the *Transvaal Mines* was announced to-day for May at 634,170 ozs. of fine gold, of a total value

of £2,693,785, being an increase of 15,125 ozs. in weight, and £64,250 in value, against April, 1910. It should be mentioned that although there was one working day more in May, work on the day of the King's funeral was discontinued at the mines on the surface and underground from 1 o'clock to 5 o'clock, so that the increase can be considered a fair improvement. This is most satisfactory, and represents a fresh high record. Profits are also satisfactory, showing that the recently-recruited natives are improving in their work. Thus fifty-four mines earned a total profit of £906,523 for May, as compared with £883,448 in April, an increase of £23,075, which comes on the top of an increase of about £19,000 for April over March. As regards the future of *Kaffirs*, there is no doubt that at no distant time the present low level of prices will be raised again, but it is evident that the Paris Bourse must recover its equilibrium before Kaffirs can make much headway, and that must, in fact, depend upon the course of Rio Tintos, which stand as low as 67. There has been a good deal of reckless speculation in Paris and Brussels, the breakdown of which is now delaying a recovery. It is the same with Rhodesians, amongst which Tanganyikas are unable to right themselves. The weakest spot is, however, apparently that of the recently floated Shamva concerns, which are sagging away almost without any shares changing hands. Amongst these, *Rhodesian Abercorn Shamva Trust* are quoted 27-16, *Shamva Mines* 4¼, these being the propositions of the *Goldfields Group*. Then there are Shamva Options at ⅛-¼ premium, and the *Rhodesian Gold Mines* and Investment at 1 15-32 (controlled by Messrs. Lewis and Marks), which are very attractive, *London and Rhodesian Mining and Lands* at 2, under the auspices of the Weil group, and Dr. Sauer's *Gold Schists of Rhodesia* at 1⅜-½. Unless the various groups make an effort to support their shares, these are not worth touching. This also applies to *West Africans*, which are depressed owing to the delays in the opening of the railway extension from Tarkwa to Prestea. The rest of the mining market is very inactive, with the exception of the section of *Mexican Gold Mines*, amongst which *Carmen Mines of El Oro* have advanced to 2 1-16. The report that an important French bank has taken a large interest in the mine is significant.

Rhodesia Exploration and Development Company.

This Company is prominently connected with the steps which are being taken to open up important new gold-mining discoveries in Rhodesia. It was instrumental in developing the now very prosperous Banket properties of the *Eldorado* and other Companies, and it has not been idle in the past year, the directors report for which shows a profit of £62,539, to which a sum of £25,010 brought forward has to be added. Dividends of 15 per cent. have been paid, and the balance of £36,394 is carried forward. An interim dividend of 10 per cent. has also been declared for the present year. Of course, the Rhodesian Exploration Company is under excellent management, Dr. Sauer being at the helm, and it is obvious that favourable opportunities will be availed of when offering.

NEW ISSUES.

THE PERUVIAN RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

This is a very important Company, which, with a capital of £250,000 in 2,500,000 shares of 2s. each, acquires a valuable concession granted by the Peruvian Government, and transferred with the consent of the Government to La Compania Gomera Villamayo, Limitada, of Arequipa, Peru. The grant to which the Company is entitled amounts to 1,000 hectares of freehold land for every kilometre of road made, the total grant being no less than 480,000 acres (about 750 square miles) in a rubber-producing country acknowledged to be one of the richest in the world. According to the report of Mr. F. C. Schafer, an expert who resided in Peru for fifteen years, it is calculated that there are about 2,880,000 trees on the entire property fully grown and ready for tapping, these being of the well-known "Hevea Brasiliensis" and "Castilloa Elastica" kinds, and the rubber of the highest quality. The prospectus calculation is to the effect that employing 500 men and at a price of 10s. per lb. the profit would be £150,000 per annum, while with larger numbers of men, the profits would be increased proportionately. In making this calculation the cost of collection of the rubber and other expenses till laid down in London is taken as 2s. 6d. per lb. This is therefore a company of great possibilities. 1,800,000 shares of 2s. each are now offered for subscription at par, out of the proceeds of which £50,000 will be available for working capital, while 500,000 shares are reserved for future issue. The list of subscriptions will close on or before Thursday, June 16th, 1910.

THE OIL REFINERS AND MARGARINE MANUFACTURERS, LTD.

There will shortly be placed before the public a new company, the Oil Refiners and Margarine Manufacturers, Limited, which will carry on the business of copra crushers, oil refiners, etc., using a valuable patented process for refining cokernut and other oils into vegetable butters, lard, margarine, etc. It is this particular business which has proved so valuable to Van den Berghs and Pearks, Limited, which, in fact, by using certain valuable fats as ingredients of manufacture, are making huge profits. There is a strong demand for this wholesome article of food, more particularly as animal fats are at present very high in price. The company will also extract its own oil from cokernut kernel (copra), and by the methods adopted about 65 per cent. of the oil is extracted, as against 40 to 50 per cent. only obtained by the crude processes in use in the countries from which the oil is exported. There is a great demand for the company's products in the United Kingdom, and the premises to be used for the manufacture of these articles are very conveniently situated in this country, at the river-side. Very large profits are expected to be realised, and it is estimated that the nett profits available for dividends on the capital of £75,000, in 300,000 shares of 5s. each, will amount to £20,000. The vendors are so confident of the future of the undertaking that they are taking the bulk of the purchase consideration in shares. The brokers are the well-known firms of Messrs. Pidgeon and Stebbing, of the Stock Exchange, London, and Mr. David Abercrombie, of the Stock Exchange, Manchester.

LONDON THEATRES OF VARIETIES, LTD.

An issue is made at par of 100,000 7 per cent. cumulative Preference shares of £1 each of the London Theatres of Varieties, Ltd., which was incorporated as a limited company on the 2nd day of March, 1908, with the object of acquiring well-known and popular Theatres of Varieties, such as the Holborn Empire, the Empire, Kilburn, the Hippodrome, Willesden, and thirteen others set out in the prospectus. The properties it is now proposed to acquire are the London Palladium, Oxford Circus, now in course of erection; the Palace, Hammersmith, entirely reconstructed and refurnished; the Hippodrome, Ilford, newly constructed and now open; and the Hippodrome, Lewisham, now in course of erection. The prospectus states that the profit realised by the Company in the first year was £60,394, and in the second financial year, ending March 31st, £96,470, dividends of 12 per cent. being paid and £32,455 carried forward. The directors believe that the time has arrived for further judicious extension, and that the above-mentioned four properties will add greatly to the earning power of the combination. The present issue of Preference shares is made to carry out this extension, and the prospectus states that there would be, on the basis of the net profits for the first financial year, sufficient to pay the dividend on this issue more than 6½ times over. The subscription list will close on or before Thursday, June 16th, 1910.

SALDANHA BAY, HARBOUR AND RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.

A Rise in the Shares.

A great deal of interest has been aroused by the statement made by me last week of the remarkable position of this company, now that the Cape Government has agreed to construct the remaining link of the railway from Hopefield to Saldanha Bay. As a matter of fact, the Government are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet, and have advertised for tenders for this work. This means that Saldanha Bay will become one of the most important harbours of South Africa. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Ordinary shares of £1 each, fully paid, have come into strong demand up to 12s., and there is every prospect of a much more substantial rise.

THE FAILURE OF JAMES PLATT AND CO.

We shall next week publish some interesting facts and correspondence relating to this failure. We are of opinion that, in the interests of the large body of trade creditors, and of the unfortunate depositors in Platt's "Bank," it is desirable that a very thorough investigation should be made into not only the history of the firm's business during the past few years, but also with certain circumstances which immediately preceded the failure. The story is a remarkable one.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

City of Pernambuco 5 Per Cent Guaranteed Bonds.—T. W. (Pernambuco).—This issue went off well, owing to Brazilian stock being in favour just now. Of course, you must pay up the balance, and the bonds now stand at ½ to 1 premium. When they get 1 premium, you might as well sell them.

National Share Exchange.—N. S. E. B. (Bramley).—Unless specially instructed to do so, "single combination" accounts are not opened for closing seven days after. If you will refer to the statement, you will see that the Milwaukees were closed on April 25th, the Baltimores on the 26th, and the Eries on the 29th.

Rio Janeiro Tramway Bonds.—Inky.—The first mortgage bonds are the best for investment, and are a sound security.

Outside Brokers.—L. T.—These people are outside brokers. The advice given by them to invest in American Rails was by no means sound, as since the 28th May, when the polite invitations were sent out, there has been a heavy fall. I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with such outsiders, and deal only through members of the Stock Exchange. Gloves, J. T.—I do not see how I can help you. These people are not philanthropists, and you cannot play with them the game of "heads I win, tails you lose." In your position, you should not speculate, and I am afraid that you will have to put up with your loss. G. B.—(1) No. (2) Yes. (3) No. (4) I cannot tell you how such people conduct their business. (5) See foregoing replies. Toledo.—(1) Outside brokers. As a matter of principle, I never advise as to the solvency of outside brokers. (2) This is not the time to sell Rhodesian shares, therefore you had better hold these. The Rubber shares Nos. 3 and 4 will probably improve now that the market is going better, but I should advise you to close them as soon as you can get out without loss. You can do far better in other shares. A. J. Griffithstoin.—(1) I think you will be wise to accept the offer, which I think is *bonâ fide* (2) Yes, they have paid the interest.

Americans.—H. S. K.—You are entitled to your transfer note, but I can hardly see where the shady business comes in. You might, however, write to the firm and threaten to place the matter before the Stock Exchange Committee, which should bring them to book

Kaffirs.—Hydrometer.—While both the Kaffir shares in question are promising, you must understand that in proposing to transfer your money from the P.O. Savings Bank into them, you are greatly increasing the comparative risk. If you do not mind this, you might split the sum between the two shares. Write to the firm, and they will tell you what to do.

Instalment Bonds.—Head Boots.—You are entirely in the hands of these people, and must await their pleasure.

South American Rails.—Ennismore.—(1) No dividend has been paid on Brazil Great Southern Prefs. since May, 1891, and I cannot tell you when such will be resumed. The shares are a pure speculation. They are quoted at £5 per £20 share. (2) N.W. of Uruguay First Preference stock is quoted at 34, and is similarly speculative, although this is actually receiving dividends, 2 per cent. having been paid last November for the year.

Small Concern.—Gezira.—(1) Only for very small sums. (2) No. Reve, A. N.—Only for very small sums.

Various.—Trustee.—(1) No longer in existence. (2) The £100 Ordinary stock of the Midland Uruguay Railway Company is quoted at 17; no dividends are now being paid. (3) As the £10 Preference shares stand at only 1½, it is evident that the Ordinary, which are not even quoted, are practically worthless.

Small Industrial.—Nemo (Brighton).—I do not advise the proposed investment. This is a highly speculative concern.

Sheba Queen.—Wilts.—The Sheba Queen went into voluntary liquidation in May last year, and its property was acquired by the Komati (Transvaal) Goldfields, 18, Eldon Street, London, E.C. There is no market for the shares.

Bond System.—C. S. R. B.—(1) Yes, as far as is known. (2) Ask the surrender value. (3) There is no market value. Personally, I do not care for the bond system.

Option Transaction.—Tauton.—Presuming that the transaction is in Yankees, you should receive about £6 15s., and deducting the cost of the option of £3, the net profit should therefore be about £3 15s.

Workington.—W. O. (Gloucester).—(1) These shares are held in some esteem in the North, but they are, after all, purely speculative. No dividends have been paid yet, but one should be forthcoming at the end of the financial year. (2) Zinc Corporation are also a fair speculation, if you do not mind waiting for some time. (3) Yes, 100 shares of each would be quite enough to hold. (4) Unless the price changes in the meantime, you sell at the lower of the two figures quoted, and buy at the higher. (5) If the shares have a free market, you can sell almost immediately; otherwise you would have to await an opportunity.

Premium Bonds and Stockbroker.—C. W.—Stockbrokers do not deal in Premium Bonds, but the firm of foreign bankers in London, whose name is forwarded, will attend to this. (2) Outside concern. I advise dealing only through a member of the Stock Exchange. Nothing at all against using the post, as long as you are not found out.

Outside Broker and Oil Shares.—R. W. D. (Leeds).—These are outside brokers, and you should be very careful. In fact, it is preferable to deal through a member of the Stock Exchange I do not think much of the Oil shares in question, but think there is no option but to hold.

Whitehead's Rubbers.—Universal.—(1) The Ordinary shares are quoted at about 11-16, and the death of King Edward has doubtless reacted unfavourably upon the company's business. The shares cannot be called a good investment. (2) These Rubber shares are not exactly among my favourites, but if the general improvement in that market holds, they should also go better.

Rubber Shares.—D. F. (Herts).—These shares are only at a very slight premium, and if you can get out without a loss you should do so (2) Same reply. (3) I do not think much of this concern either, and you should take an opportunity to get out. What you require has been forwarded. Goodie.—The Para (Marajo) Islands Rubber Estates are not yet quoted. (2) No, you should sell if you can get out without a loss. (3) Your wish is complied with. C. P. M.—(1) I am afraid the prospects of these Rubber and Tea shares are not brilliant, and if you can get out without a loss you should do so. (2) If you have applied for shares, and have been allotted them, you are bound to pay the future calls. If you do not do so, you can be sued for it, and the previous instalments paid can be confiscated. Sambo.—I do not like these shares, but I doubt whether you could get rid of them if you wanted to. Hockey.—(1) Not much. (2) When an opportunity offers. (3) Wait for a moderate recovery. It is impossible to estimate when the company will pay dividends; it is certainly very highly capitalised. (4) Also get rid of these at the first opportunity. R. A.—No need to realise in a hurry, but when you see a moderate profit, take it. Paddy.—If you join this committee you make yourself liable for an unknown amount of legal expenses, notwithstanding any agreement you have signed. You must, therefore, please yourself in the matter. Aberdeen.—Yes, a promising rubber company, and I send you the address of a suitable firm of stockbrokers, through whom the shares can be purchased. Welsh Butcher.—A promising undertaking, and you need not be in any particular hurry to sell. J. L. B.—There is no market for either of these shares. A. B. C. (Southampton).—This does not come within the front rank, but it might be worth while holding the shares for a recovery. B. C. H. There is a quoted price for these shares, but a very nominal one—viz., 6d. discount to par. If you can yet out without much loss, you had better do so.

Argentine Northern Lands.—Agricola.—The Argentine division seems to be rather out of favour at present, and I cannot undertake to say that you will make a profit on your holding of Argentine Northern Lands, bought at 3is. 6d., and now quoted at about 30s., within twelve months, unless matters generally take a distinct turn for the better. Take a profit on the Oil shares in question as soon as you can get it.

Shareholders' Rights.—J. R.—As a shareholder you have a right to inspect the register of shareholders of the company in question. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

Derwent Valley Water.—W. H. M.—The latest information is that nearly £2,900,000 has been raised on mortgages out of total borrowing powers of nearly £6,000,000. The works are now under construction. A fair investment, if you do not mind locking up your money for some time.

Bank Shares, Etc.—E. R.—(1) You do not say what you paid for these bank shares, but as the concern is not making much progress, I should sell and reinvest in something more. (2) There has already been such a big rise in these two shares, that I hesitate to advise their purchase now. Why not buy yourself some promising rubber shares. See my articles.

Money Lenders.—G. R. A.—It does not come within my province to recommend money lenders.

Oil Shares.—E. P.—There must be some oversight in the matter. Why do you not write to the Secretary for an explanation. Otherwise, you might appeal to the bankers of the company. What you require has been forwarded in your letter.

Insurance Co.—J. O.—(1) Not first-class. (2) Only 1-16 to 3-16.

Mount Austin Rubber Shares.—Alfred.—These are still quoted at a premium, as they are dealt in for special settlement. You should hold, but not average. (2) No such announcement regarding John Bull shareholders has been made.

Foreign State Lotteries.—F. C. S.—I cannot help you in this matter. Lotteries are illegal here, and I cannot, under the circumstances, supply you with particulars.

£100 for Speculation.—Avon.—(1) Rubber shares look very attractive again; see my articles. (2) Randfontein Estates are amongst the best holdings in the South African market, and you should certainly hold your shares for a considerable rise.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

Provincial Insurance Co. (Bolton).—R. W. S. (Edinburgh).—The first two questions are answered in the affirmative. As to the second, we think you might make a better selection for the particular business you name.

Proof of Death.—S. M.— The company would of course require proof of death, or reasonable grounds for believing that you were dead, but if you were in your yacht and a collision sent yacht and crew to the bottom, there would probably be the requisite proof. It is, of course, conceivable that you might be run down at sea and sunk and the colliding vessel get away and make no report, but that is not likely. If it happened, your wife would have to wait a reasonable time and the fact, for example, that Lloyd's treated the yacht as lost would be proof enough for the Insurance Company that you were on board. You should inform them of your practice of going to sea and anchoring on the coast at night.

The Wesleyan and General Assurance Co.—You need be under no apprehension.

United London and Scottish Insurance Co.—Trojan.—We should not advise you to increase your holding. The company was established in 1907.

City Life Assurance Co.—W. N. (Sunderland).—There is often some delay in the completion of these advances. We cannot see why you should not take the advance when it is offered.

Out of Employment Risks.—P. O. O. (Southampton).—(1) We think you will find it very difficult to get exactly what you want. (2) We know nothing of the Manchester Mutual Benefit Association to which you refer.

Endowment Policy.—Enquirer (Springwell).—We do not think your son can do better than go to the United Kingdom Temperance and Provident Institution.

Insurance of Life.—Taffy (Reading).—If the facts are as you state, then you should communicate with the offices, who would take the necessary steps to prevent a fraud. But you should be sure of your facts before making the allegations, or you may find yourself involved in a slander or libel action.

National Standard Insurance Co.—M. E. (Atherton).—There is no truth in the rumour to which you refer, and the persons spreading it ought to be punished.

Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York.—Sartor (Sutton).—You complain that you were promised verbally what does not appear upon the policy. Surely you should have satisfied yourself before taking it out that the terms of your verbal agreement were embodied in it. As to what you may expect on the completion of your twenty annual payments of £15 17s. 11d., of which now only one instalment remains to be paid, it is impossible for us to tell you how near the cash actually offered by the company will come to the sum suggested as likely to be receivable when you took out the policy, but we have no doubt that if you write to the Head Office they will give you a pretty near idea of what you may expect. J. G. (Shirehampton).—Yes, certainly it is "all right," and a good company.

The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society.—Blotting Pad (Poplar).—It does not follow that because a Society is Mutual it is less safe than a Company with limited liability. It is often the other way about. There can be no possible objection to your taking up an Agency with this Society, which is one of standing

British Homes Assurance Corporation.—J. G. (Shirehampton).—We suppose you mean the company now known as the City Life Assurance Company. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

Safe Company.—H. S. L. (Wilmecote).—For your purpose the Scottish Accident life and Property Insurance Company is among the best.

British Commercial Fire Insurance Company.—C. B. (Birmingham).—We think not.

The National Benefit Trust, Ltd.—We have received so many enquiries respecting this trust recently that it may be convenient to mention the receipt of its report to the shareholders for the year 1909, which must be considered a very satisfactory one. The auditor's certificate states that securities to the amount of £359,814 have been deposited with the trustees of the bondholders in respect of liabilities on contracts in force, amounting to less than £345,000. The sum of £45,000 has been added to the Bondholders' Fund, and Mr. J. Holt Schooling reports that the valuation may be regarded as stringent, and as making full provision to meet all liabilities.

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NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

J.B. 18/6/10. Date .....

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

By Moore Anking.

LETTER No. II.

The Durdles,
Diddleston.

Dear Mother,—Been going to write you for donkeys' years. How's your leg? Better?

I got the parcel all right. Wanted a change, too, by the time it got here. Couldn't have gone on for ever, could I? But, the lace round the bottoms—oh dear, I swear it wasn't like that when I sent 'em. Took me three-quarters of an hour trying to join it all up; then I got the rats an' cut it all off with a pair of garden shears. If they only had red stripes down I should look like a coon singer. Don't have to jump about, though, so nobody'll see 'em. I leave 'em in my petticoats at night.

Well, I shan't go back to step-cleaning any more, mother dear—that's a cert. I don't mean no offence, but straight, I wouldn't be working again for that Missis Parkins—no, not if it was ever so. Do you remember that time when I sewed the feather across the top of her hat with the stem pointing up, and how, while she was standing at the counter with her jug, somebody hung on all the lemon rings out of the glasses? Do get my own back, don't I, mother? And do you remember me telling you how Parkins jumped on her hat when she got home, wanted to know if she couldn't fetch his drop of beer 'thout stopping to play quoits?

Seems like as if it only happened yesterday. I know I was in their back-kitchen, and I laughed till I burst the lamp-glass. They had to sit in the dark and go to bed without a light, 'cause it was early-closing. Laugh!—— Here, we've got a tellaphone thing on the wall——Tiddle-iddle-iddle—Tiddle-iddle! I always have a good laugh when I think of Mother Parkins and the lamp-glass. Could you hear me, just now?

Straight, though, I ain't one to bear malice, am I, mother? You know that. But I shan't be real happy till Mother Parkins is in trouble. Fancy I can hear her now: "Here's three ha'pence out of the tuppence, Jinny, give you the odd ha'penny next time round." Course, I never got it. Oh, but she was a wicked pleader, that woman!

Well, I've got such a lot to tell you, old darling, and yet I don't hardly seem as if I knew how to get started.

I say, you can tell Mother Parkins about my new place if you like. Mind you pile it on thick. Tell her I go for rides in the oughter-mow-Bill. That only means motor-car, mother, but she'll very likely think it's an airship. I don't care, s'long's she's worried. You know how to stretch it when you're spinning the yarn.

Talking about motors, we've got four here; as for horses, we're over-run with 'em. It seems a fair waste, it do, straight.

Of course, I don't go for rides in the motor-cars just when I like, though I b'lieve I could if I wanted. One of the shuffers asked me to go for a joy-ride the other evening—said I could bring the youngsters. Of course, that wouldn't have been no treat, so I thanked him and edged out of it. I'm not altogether gone on "joy-rides." Two girls I know have 'ad 'em, but they don't seem any better off than me what hasn't tried 'em.

Oh dear, my young ladies are playing the piano in the blue drawing-room, and singing fit to lift the roof. Lord Dumchuck's sisters these are, on the mother's side. One of them twitters just like that puzzle we heard at Mosstoll's. Don't know which it is, so I keep trying to catch her on the twitter.

! ! !——There goes the bell, that's for me. 'Spect the kids are awake. Good-bye, mother. Want s'more things soon—new ones. Send measure in next letter. Olive oil. x x x x x x Affectionate daughter,

Jane Ann.

THE BRADLAUGH FELLOWSHIP.

The Bradlaugh Fellowship are organising their annual outing to Brookwood, where Mr. Bradlaugh's remains are buried, for Sunday, July 3rd. The excursion fare is 2s. 6d., but tickets at half-price will be supplied to those applying to Mr. W. J. Ramsey, 146, Lansdowne Road, Hackney, N.E., and sending 1s. 3d. not later than Monday, June 27th. He will send circular giving all information respecting trains, etc. The Brookwood Club will keep open all day to accommodate the visitors, and arrangements have been made with hotels and restaurants for supplying refreshments.

Somerville's
Scotch Whisky
(the finest that Scotland can produce)

at wholesale prices direct from Scotland

Packing Free.
Special terms for exportation and to large buyers.

In the event of the Government refunding any of the duty now charged on Spirits, we shall repay the proportionate amount.

Guaranteed Ages	POST FREE 3 BOTS.	Carriage paid to nearest railway station. 6 BOTS.	12 BOTS.
4 Years Old	9/6	18/6	36/-
6 Years Old	11/-	21/6	42/-
10 Years Old	12/6	24/6	48/-

Fill up the Order Form and post to us with your remittance TO-DAY.

John Somerville & Co., Ltd.
Distillers,
Craigmillar, Edinburgh.
Established 1828.

POST FREE
SAMPLE HALF-BOTTLES.
4 years old . . 1/9
6 " " . . 2/-
10 " " . . 2/3

ORDER FORM.

To Messrs. John Somerville & Co., Ltd.,
Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value.....for which please send me.....bottles of your Specially Selected Fully Guaranteed.....years old Scotch Whisky on condition that if it is not the finest Whisky I have ever tasted at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded. J.B 18.6 10.

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Those desirous of operating in the Stock Markets are advised to do so by means of "Call" Options. The risk is thus reduced to a minimum whilst full advantage can be taken of bursts of activity and sudden rises.

For LOWEST OPTION RATES in HOME RAILS, AMERICANS, MINING, RUBBER AND OIL SHARES.

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E. DONNITHORNE & Co.,
36, Gracechurch Street,
London, E.C.

"ADVANTAGES OF OPTIONS," clearly explaining option dealing, with full examples, post free upon application.

London Venture Corporation.

A HIGHLY PROMISING OUTLOOK.

At the first ordinary general meeting of the London Venture Corporation, Ltd., Mr. J. S. Smith-Winby (the chairman) presiding, congratulated the shareholders upon the report and accounts for the nineteen months from the incorporation of the Company to April 30 last. In the early stages of the career of the undertaking it passed through times which were anything but normal. Then came the rubber boom, in which their directors took an early part, in October last they becoming interested in the Jequie Rubber Syndicate and its offshoot, the West Jequie Rubber Estates. Quickly followed the first of a series of wild-rubber vine propositions, the Madagascar Rubber Company, floated by the Corporation in conjunction with parties controlling the rights over the interesting invention known as the Guiguet rubber cleaning machine. This machine had emerged successfully from the most exhaustive trials, and matters had now developed sufficiently for those in charge of the first machine to be able to say that they would be in a position to land clean rubber in Europe at about 1s. a pound. Nine more of the machines should reach Madagascar in September, which should enable the Company to produce at the rate of 200 tons per annum before the end of this year.

They had also been interested in the Nyassa Rubber Company—which had also ordered nine machines—the Crude Rubber Washing Company, and the General Oil and Finance Corporation. They had also taken a considerable interest in two estates in Java, which would form the basis of a public issue at an early date, and, with a view to its flotation, had also acquired a two-ninths share in the negotiations for the purchase of one of the most important rubber plantations in the Federated Malay States.

In addition to all these, they had in hand a very important business in connection with the meat supply of this country from the Argentine, and they hoped to have the matter ready for underwriting in the course of the next few weeks.

The profit of £85,000 had been arrived at by taking into account only actually realised profits, rubber and other shares in hand being taken at cost. He had pleasure in moving the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 6d. per 4s. share.

POPULAR DEPARTMENTS
OF
FARROW'S BANK,
The People's Bank. LTD.

Chairman and Managing Director: Mr. THOMAS FARROW.

HEAD OFFICE.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened with £5 upwards. Interest is paid at the rate of 2½ per cent. on credit balance above £10.

POPULAR DEPOSIT NOTES. 3 to 5 per cent. interest paid on transferable Deposit Notes, which are issued in sums of £1 to £1,000 for periods of from seven days to six months

BANKING FOR WOMEN. Banking facilities are provided for Women. The whole of the advantages offered by the Bank to its male customers apply equally to its lady clients, and the Department is one of the most popular in connection with the Institution.

WOMEN'S BANKING DEPARTMENT:—
29, NEW BRIDGE ST., LONDON, E.C.

FREE on application, Illustrated Booklet and Balance Sheet.

HEAD OFFICE:—
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Branches and Agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

OUR PRIVATE THEATRE.

LITTLE PLAYS WITH TOPICAL PLOTS.

By Richard Morton.

THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW: A FARCE FOR THE HIGH COURT.

Scene I.—*Office of the Plaintiff's Solicitor. The Plaintiff, a lady, is seeking advice, and the Solicitor is ladling it out to her.*

Solicitor: Do I advise you to proceed? Most decidedly yes, madam. I never knew a clearer case of libel, and I utterly fail to see any ghost of a shadow of a defence that the other side, by any miserable subterfuge, would dare to put forward. No, you have no need to worry. Leave the matter entirely in my hands and in those of the eminent counsel it will be my duty to retain on your behalf, and there cannot be the faintest doubt as to the issue.

Plaintiff: I am relieved to find you so certain about the case. I was beginning to feel nervous. Indeed, I don't think I should ever have started had it not been for your kind encouragement

Solicitor: Never fear, dear lady. I shall brief Sir Rufus Aarons, and the case is as good as won.

Plaintiff: Isn't Sir Rufus rather expensive?

Solicitor: He is not cheap, but think of the damages you will recover. Besides, the other side will have to pay costs.

Plaintiff: Then I am happier. As you are sure——

Solicitor: Sure? Madam, consider the case as over and the verdict yours. And now, just a little cheque on account, please. . . . Thank you. You'll get it all back from the other side.

Scene II.—*Office of the Defendant's Solicitor. The Defendant, a lady, is seeking advice, and her Solicitor is giving it to her—in the neck.*

Defendant: And you are of opinion I shall succeed?

Solicitor: Certainly, madam. It is ridiculous for the plaintiff to proceed. She has not a ghost of a claim. It is a piece of bluff, a try-on. Leave the matter in my hands, and there cannot be the faintest doubt as to the issue. I'm going to instruct Mr. F. E. Brown as counsel on your behalf.

Defendant: But it will be rather expensive, will it not? Perhaps if I said I was sorry, it would end all the trouble.

Solicitor: My dear madam, pray don't think of such a thing. A verdict for you is a cast-iron certainty. Of course there are some expenses to start with, but the other side will have to pay your costs.

Defendant: Well, since you are so sure——

Solicitor: Trust the law of the land to carry you through triumphant. By-the-by, you had better give me a little cheque to go on with. . . . That's right. Oh, yes, the plaintiff will have to pay this when we get the verdict.

Scene III.—*King's Bench, Court No. A1. The great libel case has lasted ten days, but is now drawing to a close.*

Mr. F. E. Brown (*concluding speech for defendant*): And so, gentlemen of the jury, I submit that the plaintiff has not a leg to stand on. She has no case and never had one, and I leave the matter to you, confidently awaiting a verdict for the defendant. (*Applause.*)

Sir Rufus Aarons (*concluding speech for plaintiff*): A stronger case has never been put before me, and I have torn the defence to rags. Therefore, I await with confidence that verdict for the plaintiff which I am sure you intend to give. (*Applause.*)

Judge (*concluding his summing-up*): So, gentlemen, if you agree with the plaintiff, you will return a verdict for the plaintiff. If, on the other hand, you agree with the defendant, you will return a verdict for the defendant. With this exposition of the law, I leave you to your duties.

The jury retire. After twenty minutes they return.

Associate: Gentlemen of the jury, do you find for the plaintiff or the defendant?

Foreman: Neither. We can't agree.

Judge: Dear me, after ten days, too. It is getting near my dinner time, but I really must ask you to give another five minutes to an endeavour to arrive at a verdict.

Five minutes interval, at the end of which the situation is the same. The jury still disagree.

Judge: Gentlemen, you are discharged. I thank you for the great attention you have given to this case. I also hope the plaintiff and defendant have enjoyed their little experience of the law, the brightest jewel in England's crown. They may now have the satisfaction of starting all over again, or of shaking hands and making it up.

Practical John Bull-ism

WHICH SHAVING STICK DO YOU USE?

You can judge of a man's patriotism by the way he supports home industries.

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No Foreign Shaving Soap equals the British "ERASMIC"; thus, every stick of foreign soap you buy is an injustice to British workmen.

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If "ERASMIC" does not prove best, your money is refunded. What could be fairer?

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Erasmic SHAVING STICK

BRITISH MADE PIANOS

FOR BRITISH HOMES

SINCE 1838 we have been making Pianos that we are proud to say are second to none in the world. They are a credit to British ability and workmanship. They are constructed to stand the vagaries of the British climate, and the prices are within reach of the purse of the British people. Catalogues free.

MOORE & MOORE

Manufacturers of the Famous British Pianos and Player Pianos

64, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

Established 1838 Telephone: 670 Central

It is estimated that there are about 2,880,000 trees on the entire property to be ultimately acquired by the Company, fully grown and ready for tapping.

Of the world's entire production of Rubber, upwards of 90 per cent. is grown on South American and other Forest areas.

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. The List will open on Tuesday, 14th June, 1910, and close on or before Thursday, 16th June, 1910.

700,000 of the Shares now offered for Subscription (£70,000) have been underwritten, and out of the proceeds £50,000 will be available for Working Capital, £10,000 for underwriting and expenses, and £10,000 for the Vendors.

THE

PERUVIAN RUBBER COMPANY

Limited.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

Share Capital . . £250,000,

Divided into 2,500,000 Shares of 2s. each.

Of which 500,000 Shares are now issued for Working Capital, and 500,000 Shares are reserved for future issue, if required

1,800,000 SHARES OF 2s. EACH

ARE NOW OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION AT PAR,

Payable as follows:

2d. per Share on Application; 2d. per Share on Allotment; 2d. per share Two Months after Allotment; and 6d. per Share Three Months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

SIR THOMAS BARCLAY, M.P., 13, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C., Director of Central Java Rubber Plantations, Limited, Chairman.

EDWARD HOWARD HALE, 134, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., Director of East African Rubber Plantation Company, Limited.

JAMES IRVINE, F.R.G.S., 26, Chapel Street, Liverpool, Chairman of West African Rubber Plantations, Limited.

J. BARR ROBERTSON, 10, Walbrook, London, E.C., Director of Anglo-Malay Investment Trust, Limited.

BANKERS.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK, Limited. Head Office: 170, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.; and Branches.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited, 62, Lombard Street, London, E.C. Head Office: Edinburgh; and Branches in Scotland.

LONDON BANK OF MEXICO AND SOUTH AMERICA, Limited, 94, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

HARRY E. GWINNER and CO., 1, Drapers' Gardens, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES.

E. G. MASSON, 2, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire a valuable Concession granted by the Peruvian Government to Messrs. M. Forga and Sons, and transferred with the consent of the Government to La Compania Gomera Villlamayo, Limitada, of Arequipa, Peru.

In the terms of this Concession the Government grants in perpetuity to the Concessionnaires large areas of land known as the Villamayo Rubber Lands, in the Province of Puno, Peru.

By the conditions of the Concession the Company undertakes to construct before the 26th of June, 1912, a mule-road, about 200 kilometres in length from the Town of Phara, in the Province of Sandia, to a point navigable by steamer on the Tambopata River, which flows into the Madre de Dios and thence into the River Amazon, the road to be two metres wide with a 10 per cent. maximum grade, and so conditioned as to be fit for constant and easy service of passengers and freight. The Company, on the other hand, is entitled to a grant of 1,000 hectares of freehold land from the Government for every kilometre of road made, or a total grant of not less than 480,000 acres (about 750 square miles) in a Rubber-producing country, acknowledged to be one of the richest in the world. The whole of this immense area may be selected.

Mr. F. J. Schafer, who has resided in Peru for more than fifteen years, has made a report, which accompanies this Prospectus, and from which the following statements concerning the property are obtained. The Board have also conferred fully with Mr. Schafer and with Mr. C. H. Amos, who has had considerable experience of road building in Peru on behalf of the Peruvian Corporation, and who considers that Mr. Schafer's estimate as to the cost and time in which the road can be completed a fair one.

From information supplied by those whom he considers well qualified to estimate their number, Mr. Schafer calculates that there are about 2,880,000 trees on the entire property to be acquired by the Company, fully grown and ready for tapping, and that the cost of collecting the Rubber will be 2s. per lb., or, including selling commission, adminstration, and other expenses, say 2s. 6d. per lb. laid down in the market in London.

The trees are the well-known "Hevea Brasiliensis" and "Castilloa Elastica," and are more abundant in this region of Peru than in the general run of the Brazilian forests. The Rubber is of the highest quality, being that which is known in the market as "Mollendo," if it finds its way to Europe via the Port of Mollendo and other Western Ports of South America, but known as "Para" when it is shipped down the Amazon by way of Manaos and Para.

The present price of "Mollendo Fine" Rubber is about 8s. 6d. per lb. and the present price of "Hard Cure" or "Bolivian Fine" is about 8s. per lb., leaving a net profit of about 6s. to 6s. 6d. per lb.

From Mr. Schafer's report it will be observed that he estimates that an Indian tapper can pick 800 lbs. of dried Rubber per year If, therefore, 500 men are employed on the property, they could collect 400,000 lbs. of Rubber yearly, which, even if the present price of rubber fell to 5s. per lb. shows a net profit of 2s. 6d. per lb., and this would represent a total yearly profit of £50,000. At 7s. 6d. per lb. the profit would be £100,000 per annum. At 10s. per lb. (which is about the present market price) the profit would be £150,000 per annum. With 1,000 men employed these profits would be respectively £100,000, £200,000 and £300,000 per annum.

WORKING CAPITAL.—The present issue will provide the Company with £50,000 available for Working Capital, and this amount the Directors consider will be ample for the requirements of the Company. In addition, a further £50,000 will be held in reserve for future issue if required.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, Brokers, Auditors, and at the Offices of the Company.

Dated 11th June, 1910.

A TESTIMONIAL IN VERSE.

She laughed at my Suit
When I asked her to Wed;
She laughed at my Suit—
"Go to Curzon!" she said.
As she knew that I knew
In smart Suitings they led,
She knew that I knew
What she meant when she said
"GO TO CURZON!"

We have received testimonials in all languages and from all countries. This in itself is not surprising, since our business and our fame is world-wide. A few days since we received the above poetic effusion. There is much truth in it.

Every man interested in himself and inspired with the desire to success, in no matter what walk in life, should pay regard to his personal appearance.

Our speciality is tailoring to Measure and our unique methods, and the gigantic extent of our business place us in such a position as to enable us to offer the best value in the World. Moreover, we guarantee each and every client's unbounded satisfaction or refund money in full. Indeed our business has been built up on this guarantee.

If it's in a Curzon Advt., it IS so.

If our Suits at 21/- and 23/6 are not equal in cut, quality, and style to thousands advertised and sold at 35/- and 42/- you can keep the Suit and we will refund you your money.

There is a reason why we give better value than other firms. You will find all particulars in the booklet which we will send you along with patterns, free and post paid.

Send Postcard for FREE PATTERNS.

Together with patterns, we send you fashion plates and complete instructions for accurate self-measurement, and tape measure. We fit you no matter where you live or refund the full amount of your purchase-money.

AWARDED "2 GOLD MEDALS."

Read our unique list of unsolicited testimonials. £5,000 forfeited if not absolutely genuine.

Gold Medal Suits to Measure from 21/- to 45/-

Those residing in London should call.

CURZON BROS.,

THE WORLD'S MEASURE TAILORS, SAMPLE SECTION,

58E, 60, 65, CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

Paris House—150, Rue de Rivoli; Bruxelles House—2, Rue de la Bourse; and in Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

Exhibitors at the Japan-British Exhibition, Building 14 (Adjoining Court of Honour)

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"Glass Houses."

What a curiously true-to-life mass of feeble humanity! What a poor, frail-minded lot at best, Paul Hervieu proves us to be, and what an admirable title the French author chose for his work by calling it "*Connais-toi.*"

"Know thyself," says M. Hervieu—aye, "Know thyself"—before attempting to give counsel to others. And he is right, for there is not one amongst the whole crowd at the Globe Theatre who really does know himself, until the precise moment arrives, and even then it is a touch-and-go sort of business as to whether they have made up their minds definitely, or will revert to the old order of things directly the crisis has passed.

I cannot help thinking though that it was Paul Hervieu's intention to show us a more serious side of nature than the English adaptor—or is it the acting—permits you to feel.

Arthur Bourchier does not imbue you with a sense of the stern man who *au fond* possesses deep and intense sentiment, but whose very training has taught him to keep his affection under "military control," so that his outburst of love comes as a surprise and revelation to the woman who imagines he neglects and thinks nothing of her.

On the contrary, Mr. Bourchier gives you an almost farcical picture of a peppery old General with an extremely snobbish, high-fatlutin code of morals, who is married to a second wife in whose honour he places implicit faith simply because he has never taken the trouble to find out that she has a heart and is consequently not insensible to the emotions born of human nature. He has placed her at the head of his household, what more can she desire? Love? Pooh! Affection? Rubbish! Attention? Twaddle! No, no, the General *has married* Lady Carteret, and his name is quite sufficient to bring her contentment for the remainder of her days.

He's a selfish, hatefully dictatorial creature to begin with, and instead of ever giving any indication that he is honestly devoted to "His Lady," Arthur Bourchier seems always to be laughing up his sleeve at things; therefore the key-note is discordant, and insincerity of motive spoils the French author's singularly truthful purport.

When the General dismisses his A.D.C. because the feather-brained little baggage and flighty better-half of his cousin Ralph Goring is seen in the early hours of the morning coming out of the A.D.C.'s bungalow, there is an under-current of banter and trifling about the scene which smacks of pretence, instead of the honestly outraged manner of a high-minded and well-disciplined soldier.

But Captain O'Brien, after having by the General's command written to Bermuda for a post there, is found innocent of any intrigue with Mrs. Goring, and it is Sir Paul Carteret's own son by wife number one who is the guilty party.

A storm in a tea-cup? Why, it wouldn't fill a nutshell. For the fiery General who has told Ralph Goring that he must go at once to a solicitor and make preparations for a divorce, not only changes his tactics when he discovers that John, his own boy is the culprit, but becomes absolutely doddering when he finds his beautiful wife being kissed by brute force—let it be understood, by the handsome young A.D.C., Captain O'Brien.

It's a large sort of pill to swallow, and I am sure the original title "*Connais-toi*" which Paul Hervieu gave to his story would have helped to get it down more effectively than the name "Glass Houses," which Kenneth Barnes has selected for his English adaptation.

I am glad, however, to see Violet Vanbrugh in a character more worthy of her gifts than that of the abominable "Woman in the Case," although Lady Carteret is not a particularly good part.

Norman Trevor tries hard to be consistent as Captain Bernard O'Brien, and comes through the trying ordeal exceptionally well.

You know for certain that the unhappy Violet is going back to the same monotonous existence, by the very manner in which she kisses Arthur in a dutiful, spiritless way on the top of his white "Clarkson," the only atom of excitement she has had in her dull, nebulous existence, namely, Captain O'Brien—being ordered off to Bermuda; and although Captain Goring forgives his wife, you can stake your life that on the slightest provocation Betty is going to behave just as foolishly again, as she did before, so there you are, don't you know, with no harm done and nothing much to interest yourself about concerning the past or future of the inhabitants of "Glass Houses."

ARE YOU DEAF?

THE STOLZ ELECTROPHONE WILL AID YOU.

Electrophone in Use—Less Conspicuous than Eye-Glasses.

It is a tiny Pocket Telephone for the deaf that fits on the ear, and is the **One Instrument in the World to Improve the Natural Hearing.** It can be tested in your own home for fifteen days, and no one is obliged to purchase unless convinced that the **Stolz Electrophone** will aid them. In the **Stolz Electrophone** the articulation and the tones are clear. The voice of the speaker appears perfectly natural. All the parts are of convenient size, and when in use the instrument is **less conspicuous than eyeglasses.**

Thousands of Testimonials

can be seen at the offices of the company. Over 80,000 Electrophones in use.

THE LONDON GENERAL MANAGER

of one of the Largest Insurance Companies in the world—the original letter will gladly be shown to anyone calling at our Fleet Street Offices—writing as recently as April 8th, 1910, says: "I have used ear instruments, both mechanical and electrical, for the past twelve years, having tried from time to time nearly every appliance that has been brought out for deaf people, but I have no hesitation in saying that your ELECTROPHONE surpasses them all, and in my opinion is far away the best aid for deaf people which has so far been invented."

Particulars Post Free on Application.

Fifteen Days' Trial Allowed and Free Test Given.

THE STOLZ ELECTROPHONE CO.

(London), Ltd., Byron House,

85, Fleet St., London, E.C.

THE LARGEST MAKERS OF HEARING DEVICES IN THE WORLD.

BRANCHES:

PARIS—15, Rue de Trevise.
MANCHESTER—Parr's Bank Building, York Street.
BIRMINGHAM—Central House, 75, New Street.
GLASGOW—Gordon Chambers, 90, Mitchell Street.
HULL—39, Savile Street.
LEEDS—12, Otley Road, Headingley.
BRISTOL AGENT—Dunscombe's, Limited, 5, St. Augustine's Parade.
BELFAST—Rankin Bros., 17, Royal Avenue.
SHEFFIELD—W. J. Ramsbottom, Ltd., Vine Works.

(The Sign of the N. S. E. is the Size of the £.S.D.)

PAID AWAY TO CLIENTS

£380,850

BY THE

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.

In General—

There is no similar firm in the world that has done so much for its clients in so short a time—comparatively, a few years only—as we have done for our clients. The N.S.E. is, in every sense, the largest and strongest firm of stock and share dealers in the United Kingdom.

A World - Challenge.

In Particular—

But, putting all that aside, important though it is, results are everything to the public. What use is a gold mine if you cannot get the gold out? The N.S.E. regularly produces cheques for clients which can be melted into gold. We are not silent about the sums we pay away—and the huge amounts we have paid away—to clients, because our competitors would not be silent if they could say the same thing, or name any sum that would not look absurdly small by comparison.

15,000 Cheques

representing over

⅓ of a Million Sterling

(for our clients).

G.G.G's Account.

CHEQUES		£	s.	d.	CHEQUES		£	s.	d.	CHEQUES		£	s.	d.
16714	...	38	15	0	17437	...	10	0	0	19692	...	202	10	0
16997	...	37	5	10	17496	...	16	17	6	20301	...	20	12	6
17057	...	30	0	0	17638	...	32	18	6	20537	...	370	10	0
17078	...	48	15	0	17951	...	24	7	6	20640	...	15	15	0
17106	...	20	0	0	18458	...	63	2	6					
17186	...	15	12	6	18569	...	20	8	9	Total		£1,073	15	7
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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

The Newest Women.

The Women's Congress at the White City seems to have perfectly satisfied itself and many of its listeners that this age has now ushered in what it calls the "newest of new women," namely, the perfectly efficient feminine person. Efficiency is just the word of the moment. The day before yesterday it was "able." And all these very good and forcible speakers are quite sure, absolutely and entirely sure, that woman must now come down into the arena and "fight with both hands," to use the phrase of one of the most earnest of these ladies' supporters. They are all so sure that "the home" is the last refuge of the incapable, that they haste to assure us (who live in it) that they do not actually despise it: in fact, they have got it on their list of things to be brought to a science—an efficient science. But what they do not seem to have suggested bringing to a science is the husband. I venture to submit his management to the attention of these efficient ladies. Will not one of these enthusiasts who has a spouse of her own—a well-behaved one—define for us the science of keeping that incalculable being happy and in order?

The House Reformer.

But the notion of turning the home into that severely ordered science makes one tremble at the state of mutiny amongst husband and servants. Can we not all see them flying out of the reformed home in terror, as a stern being in collegiate gown and cap lectures incessantly upon *everything*, from a mutton hash to a button-hook? Hitherto, one of them says, marriage has been the one refuge of the unfit and incapable. But I should like to see the sort of lunatic asylum that over-efficient, theoretical lady would make of it if she had to put her notions into practice. I sincerely admire the undoubted ideals of these forward-going women, their parochial enthusiasms, their strictly material ideas on social reform, and their earnestness of purpose. But one thing is needful, for all that. Namely, the perfect and child-like desire to love and be loved that just makes all the difference between them and the "incapables." And I even dare to say that we home women often undergo far more real tests of patience and actual skill than these public women in our daily making of many ends meet, not only money ends, but the ragged edges of husband's fancies or failings, the tempers of servants, the troubles of children, and the claims of that social life that it is often our plain duty to keep up. I think there is one science that the Congress women have yet to define—that of being centre support, entertainer, and comforter to a big circle of home people, and yet managing to look youngish, pretty, and full of vivacity and fun. Lots of nice home women do that every day of their lives. But nobody calls them "efficient." But perhaps they would rather not.

Little Victorianisms.

Anything in the shape of rosettes is to be counted very smart this summer, and many of the soft black muslin and chiffon dresses are decorated with small round rosettes of narrow corded ribbon with a very dainty effect. The same principle applies to hats, and some of the half-mourning hats in pale tints of grey and mauve satin, have tiny black *broderie anglaise* roses on them, in prim designs; that is, of course, roses made of gathered baby ribbon. Quillings are also to be very much in vogue inside the brims of the more demure-looking hats and motor bonnets, and these are so wonderfully softening to almost any face that they ought to prove popular. In white, under the brim of a grey or black hat, they are very charming, but also they look very dainty in black chiffon. The present time for half-mourning is most undoubtedly the opportunity of the "demure" woman, whether fair or dark, and she will be foolish indeed if she misses some of these coquettish Victorian opportunities. The possibilities of lilac and the new greys are simply enormous in the direction of rosettes.

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GENERAL HEALTH!

Every morning when you rise drink a tumbler of hot water with half a teaspoonful of

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Prices: 10/6, 15/-, 17/6, 21/-, 25/-, 35/-, and upwards. In Silver and Gold for Presentation. Of Stationers, Jewellers, etc. Booklet, post free, from L. and C. HARDTMUTH, 12, Golden Lane, London, E.C. (New York: 173, Broadway; Paris: 6, Rue de Hanovre; Brussels: 14, Rue du Pont Neuf; Dresden: Pragerstrasse 6; Milan: Via Bossi 4; Vienna: 1 Franzensring 20.)

N.B.—Ask your Stationer to show you Waterman's Ideal Safety and Pump-filling Pens at 12/6 and upwards.

Boots, Cash Chemists (Eastern),

"MONOTONOUS PROSPERITY."

Presiding at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting of this Company, Sir Jesse Boot (Chairman and Managing Director) remarked, in the course of its eighteen years of life, it had had no tremendous success in any one year, nor had it had any violent depression, but on the whole there had been steady progress. That they had been able to maintain so uniform a result over so long a period was, he thought, partly owing to the long years the public had been faithfully served, as it was now some 33 years since the business was established. They also benefited by the publicity given to their trading through the other affiliated companies. For instance, there were now some 100 high-class shops owned by Boots Cash Chemists (Southern) in and about London, and an enormous number of the customers of these shops, when upon their holidays in some popular resort in the Eastern Counties, were highly delighted to find one of the branches there. The greater the growth of the Southern, the Western and the Lancashire Companies, the greater was the strength given to the Eastern Company, as none of them overlapped. All their Companies—together with the parent Company, Boots Pure Drug Company—were in an exceedingly healthy condition and financially exceptionally sound and strong, as might be judged by the fact that the total reserves and undivided profits of the five Companies amounted to no less than £363,623. In the Eastern Company it would be seen from the balance-sheet that the branch managers' provident fund amounted to about £19,000, and the general reserve, roundly, to £80,000, while depreciation had been allowed to the extent of nearly £60,000. During the last year more than £8,000 had been spent in repairs and renewals—a most important item, as they were at great pains to keep their places thoroughly up-to-date. As regarded the allocation of profits, unlike other Companies, it was their pleasant custom to first pay the dividends and then to ask the shareholders to confirm them. He was sure they would not quarrel with the Board for that, and was equally confident that they would all be gratified with the dividend distribution, and agree with the other allocations in the report. He, therefore, had pleasure in moving "That the accounts be received, and that the distribution of profits, as recommended in the Directors' printed report, be and is hereby adopted."

Sir Jas. Duckworth, J.P., briefly seconded the resolution, and congratulated the Chairman on the honour which had been conferred upon him since the last meeting.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Parsons, in acknowledging the re-election of his firm as accountants, said that everything in respect of upkeep to the premises was charged against income. The Company's record was almost monotonous in its prosperity. The dividend on the ordinary shares was at the high rate of 12 per cent., the average for the last 18 years being over 11 per cent. The trade of the Company was still increasing and the outlook was excellent.

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BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Wouldn't "Wait and see" be the best Government policy now?
Will the Home Rulers "govern themselves" over the "crisis"?
Is the Kaiser really a "poor" Emperor?
Why not send the Peers to a "reform-a-Tory" institution?
Doesn't Winston Churchill find the Aliens Act farcical enough as it is?
Isn't the Roosevelt version called "Swankee Doodle"?
Didn't Kent send Yorkshire "hopping"?
Isn't "Glass Houses" rather a transparent sort of play?
Won't "Printers' Pie" be eagerly devoured?
Can cricketing flannels be described as "the clothers of play"?
Doesn't the headline, "The *Futurs* of the Crystal Palace," assume too much?

"The only way to help men and women is to teach them to help themselves," says Lord Robert Cecil. Has he turned Socialist?

Germany is making Boy Scout mugs, a morning paper tells us. We do the opposite.

The man who fired a hayrick at Stroud simply to get into prison, must have had a burning desire to be a convict.

"Love doesn't want a key to open the door of a woman's heart." says H. L Dobree. No, it's usually wide open already.

"How Cricket Stands To-Day," is the title of an article in a contemporary. How to-day can stand its cricket is what we want to know.

"Women as Accountants," we read. Why not, since they are accustomed to dealing with refractory figures?

"Backbites sting like wasps," says Dr. Knox. With their tales, of course.

"Domestic Service," is the name of a new book. It is in good print.

A Canadian paper says there is no intention of closing the doors to British emigrants. Canada will still "take them in."

"Many Cracked Heads in Cork," reads a headline. We have always suspected it.

The new serial in the *Express* is called "Sunset." It ought to "go down."

New York City's rubbish, collected by the ash-carts, was sold last year for £46,800. A case of the dust raising the wind.

"Cold crow" was one of the dishes at a recent Paris banquet. Now we know what has become of him.

"Lying is all a habit," states a contemporary. Expert opinion?

A plea for better sermons has been put forward. We must admit that some discourses are nothing but pew-rile attempts.

Professor Herkner says that open-work stockings are improper. But they don't look bad.

"Where to see the Comet" says an evening paper. We know where we should like to see it.

There has been a severe earthquake in Costa Rica. Another argument against single chamber government.

"Sabbatarianism is dead," says the Rev. Andrews. Pity he did not finish the quotation.

"Auction that has lasted twenty-four years," runs a heading. But many people get things on the nod all their lives.

According to the *Express*, ladies eat too many sweets. But few favour stickjaw.

We hear of a gang of thieves on the river. Cannot they be "locked" up?

Comfortable Summer Collars.—With the approach of the summer holidays the question of suitable neck wear becomes a matter of some importance to the average man. One of the most comfortable collars is, undoubtedly, the low double collar of from 1¼ to 2 inches in depth, and the demand for this type is, consequently, a very large one. Messrs. Austin Reed, of 13, Fenchurch Street and branches, inform us that this was anticipated by them, and that they have been stocking it in the well-known "Summit" Collars for some months past. "Summits" are made in quarter-sizes, and have so many other good points that we advise our readers to send a card to Messrs. Austin Reed for their illustrated booklet, which describes more fully the various features and shapes of the "Summit" Collar.

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159, High Street, Kensington, W. Tel., 215 Kensington.
80, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.
11, The Mall, Ealing, W. Tel., 1050 Ealing.
14, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W. Tel., 5496 Paddington.
19, Villiers Street, Strand, W.C.
42, George Street, Richmond, S.W. Tel., 123 Richmond.
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WHAT SOUR D MILK GERMS CAN DO.

Vast strides have been made in the cultivation of the soured milk germ, and what was originally to many a very nasty and even repugnant dish, has become, with the introduction of Massolettes, a veritable dainty. In Massolettes we have apparently a chocolate cream sweetmeat, but the usual interior cream of the chocolate is replaced with a pleasant paste serving as a medium for the health-bringing germ which claims to cure indigestion and obesity.

Dr. C. Wehmer has found that under certain conditions the lactic organisms will preserve their vitality for at least six years. Obviously the makers of Massolettes (Lactic Ferments, Limited), who are well-known for their scientific researches in this direction, have combined in their product all that is known up to date about the nicety of preparation to which we allude. The result is that we have in this form a medicament that is pleasant to take and sure in its effects.

We have thousands of letters from all parts of the universe from martyrs to indigestion (the primary cause of malnutrition and all gastric troubles) who have been cured by taking a course of Massolettes. The most successful results have also been obtained in the treatment of obesity without any after ill-effects.

This is undoubtedly due to the fact that Massolettes so repair the digestive organs that unhealthy tissue and superfluous fat cannot exist.

Massolettes, by their beneficent properties, make the system work properly, and thus we have a harmless and perfect cure for obesity. A patient in London states:—"I lost two stone in three months under your treatment, and have never felt better in my life."

There are grave risks of contamination by exposure to the air, and quite recently a titled lady's serious indisposition was undoubtedly due to contaminated milk. This cannot happen with the Massolette, which is hermetically sealed by our own process, which is patented, the registered number 11933'10. Medical men are now advising their patients to abstain from taking lactic acid in any other form than Massolettes and Massogran, the latter a soured milk granule, which we invented for those patients who object to chocolate, and for these the latter is the best form for taking lactic acid ferments.

Massolettes are made under the supervision of bacteriologists holding diplomas.

An interesting booklet will be sent post free, or a trial package of either preparation for 1s. 2d. post free on application to Lactic Ferments, Limited, 44, Brunswick Row, Brighton.

Vrogen, the nerve food, in tins, 1/3, 1/10, 3/6, & 6/3.

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formerly the property of
BARON GEORGE DE REUTER,
LADY MOUAT,
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the Hon. Mrs. VANSITTART, deceased,
and others.

Removed from 4, BERKELEY SQUARE, S.W., 108, PALACE GARDENS TERRACE, and BROMLEY PARK, KENT. This Collection comprises one of the most magnificent selections of genuine high-class Modern, Antique, and Oriental Furnishings, Draperies, Carpets, and Works of Art to be seen in London, being the complete equipment of several entire Mansions, any single articles out of which may be selected at once and DELIVERED FREE Town or Country, or Shipped for Abroad, or can REMAIN STORED FREE, PAYMENT WHEN GOODS REQUIRED. 27 COMPLETE BED ROOMS, comprising well-made solid oak bed-room suites, with glass door wardrobes, £3 17s. 6d.; well-made solid walnut bed-room suites, £5 17s. 6d.; unique design white and other enamelled bed-room suites, £7 15s.; choice Sheraton design ditto, £7 15s.; very elegant Queen Anne design ditto, £12 15s.; two choice solid mahogany bed-room suites with 5ft. 6in. wide wardrobes, £14 10s.; and elegant design solid walnut bed-room suite with 6ft. wide wardrobe, formerly the property of Sir Frederick Wigan, £14 14s.; two costly inlaid and amboyna and satinwood bed-room suites, 22 guineas; choice and unique design real silver ash bed-room suite fitted with electro silver fittings, £25, with bedstead to match; and others of very elaborate description, three having originally cost over 300 guineas each, all of which will be disposed of at equally low prices. Three gentlemen's fine old English wardrobes, from £4 10s., and five fine old English bow-front chests of drawers from 45s. Bedsteads of French, Italian, and Parisian designs, an elegant full-size brass throughout French bedstead as new 50s., several with massive square pillars, also elegant inlaid mahogany, oak, and other twin bedsteads from 20s. DINING-ROOM, LIBRARY, STUDY, and SMOKING-ROOM FURNITURE, comprise, among numerous other important items, choice Queen Anne design sideboard, 5ft. wide, offered at £7 15s.; Queen Anne design overmantel, 55s.; splendid set of Queen Anne design chairs, comprising two carving chairs and six small ditto, £7 15s.; Queen Anne oval extending dining table, 4gs.; the entire being in perfect preservation. Delightfully soft-sprung Chesterfield settee, £3 15s.; two lounge easy chairs to match at 30s. Very beautifully carved oak furniture, comprising large sideboard, £5 15s.; overmantel to match, 50s.; extending dining table, 50s.; two majestic arm chairs and six small ditto, all to match, £6 15s.; this collection is in perfect condition and a magnificent bargain. A superbly soft-sprung Chesterfield settee, 6ft. 6in. long, £4 10s., with two very fine easy chairs to match at 50s. Seven fine quality real TURKEY CARPETS, various sizes, with RUGS to match, scarcely soiled, from £4 10s.; also some real PERSIAN CARPETS and RUGS, equally low; an unusually fine 7ft. Adams design pedestal sideboard, with pewter lined wine sarcophagus to match. Very choice antique design pierced gallery fenders with cast claw feet, and some with Morocco leather seats; three fine old grandfather's chiming clocks and other old bracket clocks; fine toned modern pianoforte by George Brinsmead for 12gs., and a magnificent short pocket grand piano of delightful touch and tone, 45gs., originally costing 125gs.; and a capital pianoforte in first-class condition, 5gs. DRAWING-ROOM, comprising some delightfully delicate hand-tufted Aubusson carpets of exquisite design, superb silk draperies, Venetian and other mirrors, valuable signed etchings on silk, costly carved and gilt Louis XV. settees, with fauteuils en suite, and occasional chairs, choice Bergier chairs with footstools, covered broche silk and gold embroidery; carved gilt tables and graduated screens, Vernis Martin, Boule, and tortoiseshell inlaid and other cabinets, commodes and escritoires. A magnificently sprung upholstered carved gilt suite, designed and manufactured by Levinski, of Paris, being offered for the ridiculously low price of 25gs.; an exceptionally well made silk covered suite, comprising a luxuriously upholstered Chesterfield settee, two large lounge easy chairs to match, with four spring-seated occasional chairs, £9 17s. 6d. the lot; lovely design cabinet, 4ft. 6in. wide, £6 15s.; two dainty centre occasional tables at 25s., and overmantel fitments, 37s. 6d. Very beautiful and rare collection of real Dresden, Sevres, Capo di Monti, and other china figures and groups. Complete sets of fine old English design table glass, from 35s. the set; a quantity of silver and Sheffield plate by Elkington and Rodgers, and canteens containing cutlery by Mappin and Webb, a quantity of table and bed linen, some choice ivory carvings, two iron safes by Milner and Co. and John Tann, rare collection of buffalo and antelope horns, cases of very rare butterflies and beetles, and other natural history specimens; garden, motor garage, and coach-house utensils, and numerous other valuable items of interest, all which full particulars and catalogues may be had on application. Any item may be had separately, delivered free town or country, or held stored free, payment when goods required. The whole is now on view at the

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JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag." AND ONLY* THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect.*

We return hearty thanks for the many greetings we have received upon the fourth birthday of this journal.

W. J. D. (London, S.W.) says the Grand Music Hall at Clapham Junction is just as bad as the Holborn Empire about engaged seats.

C. N. (London) AND OTHERS.—We quite realise that funds are required for Church purposes, but we do not like the discrepancy between the offertories for such objects and those for the Sick and Poor.

A. B. (Nottingham) sends us a report of a recent discussion of the Nottingham City Council, from which we are delighted to gather that the aims of the John Bull League are making headway in that body. After the recent unkind things we have said about Nottingham, it affords us pleasure to give it a pat on the back.

E. D. W. (Walthamstow).—"Peter Pan"—otherwise Percy McDonald—has no connection whatever with this journal, and is not authorised to make any use of its name.

"MABEL."—Please send us, in confidence, your name and address.

"READER" (Boscombe), apropos William Farrer, the defaulting Amsterdam bookmaker whom we recently exposed, tells us that the bankers advertised upon Farrer's circulars state that he had an account in their books for a short time only, when it was balanced at their request.

P. E. A. (Sevenoaks) AND OTHERS tell us that Captain Fulton, who writes us in reference to His Majesty's proclamation at Sevenoaks, was at the bottom of the poll at the last Council election, being the only candidate rejected. His friends on that body, however, elected him chairman. They ask what is the good of an election if the wishes of the electors can be overriden in this way.

H. B. (Sevenoaks) sends us a copy of an amusing circular issued by a Mr. Thomas Skinner, appealing for funds to reimburse Captain Fulton the cost of the Proclamation, and stating that the gallant Captain "gave pleasure to thousands of people, both young and old." Yes, he was a cause of innocent merriment.

NURSING HOMES.—Correspondents who have written us upon this subject are requested to accept our thanks. Their great number prevents our acknowledging them individually.

C. H. sends us a copy of the June issue of the *Journal of the British Gardeners' Association*, and says that its comments upon the complaint of the journalist that he could not get an answer from the Kew officials are not to be wondered at, as the curator was the founder of the Association, the photographer foreman an official of the Association, with the editor of the *Journal* and secretary of the Association a friend.

R. C. (London, S.E.).—Will you send us your address?

J. H. (Lewisham) wants to make his employer pay damages for some mild chaff and asks us to recommend a solicitor. What price Carter and Bell?

C. A. C. H. (Wembley).—If you bet one side will beat the other and the result is a tie, you lose. So you need not wait for the results of Hartlepool and Dorset. You have evidently not been in a hurry to settle over the election.

"A PATRON" says the Finsbury Park Premier Rink draped a bandstand as a mark of respect on the demise of the Crown, but allowed the band to play popular dance music. Well?

MISSES J. and K. A. (Presteigne) sent £4 to Norman and Co. (alias May, 41, Church Street, Birmingham), but says they cannot obtain goods. They say May poses as a manufacturer and issues an enormous catalogue, but only has one locked room at the top of a building, and his landlord does not know the man's private address. We have referred to Norman before.

J. P. (Homerton) asks if prisoners detained "during His Majesty's pleasure" are released on a demise of the Crown. The point might be worth raising.

H. W. C. (Battersea).—It is true the directors of the London Theatre of Varieties stopped the wages of their employees for the evening the theatre was closed on King Edward's funeral day. It may also be true, as you say, that a lad earning two-and-six a week had 5d. knocked off. The profits last year were £96,470, and the shareholders take 12 per cent., bless 'em.

A. S. (Lyceum Club) says Protestant propagandists are making Edinburgh intolerable for poor Catholics. We suggest a volley of electioneering eggs or an action for slander.

W. B. (Clapham Common) went to the Pure Food Exhibition and noticed that all the interesting exhibits were labelled "See catalogue." After wandering for half-an-hour in search of a vendor of catalogues, he was referred to the office and informed that there were no catalogues. Dare we offer biscuits to a food exhibition?

W. H. L. (Newark) has been looking out for a Mansion House Fund on the occasion of the colliery disaster. But the Mansion House is very busy just now with the calamities of benighted foreigners.

F. O. D. (Dover) says we ought to imitate practical German methods for raising sunken submarines.

J. B. (Manchester) enquires about the Orphanage, Twickenham Park, as a young lady collected for it at a Manchester music-hall.

F. W. (Streatham Hill) thinks our chestnut about Circumcision very indelicate. How old is he?

(Continued on page 910.)

Consumption Can be Cured

AT LAST A REMEDY HAS BEEN FOUND THAT CURES CONSUMPTION.

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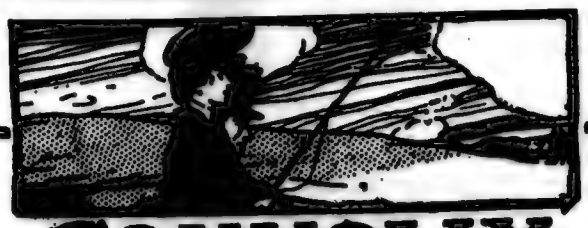

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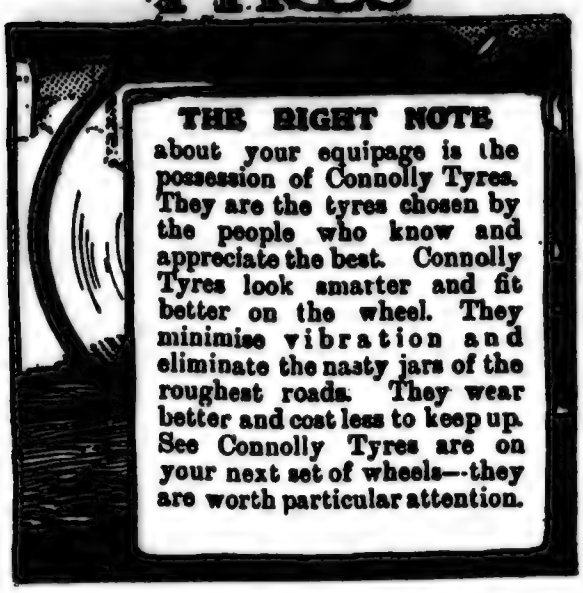

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W. M. L. says that a domestic servant had a call from a representative of the Great Central Supply Company, 7, Denman Street, London Bridge, who offered to sell her a gold ring, which she took and "signed for." Subsequently the firm wrote her saying they would let her have it for £2 10s., payable by such monthly instalments as she had arranged with their man. As she had not made any arrangements, and understood the price was to be about 30s., she returned the article, obtaining a receipt from the Post Office. After several letters, they sent her notice that if she did not pay 9s. in a few days they would County Court her for the hire. As they appear to have accepted the return of the ring, we advise her to defend any proceedings. County Court judges usually entertain a strong view of such transactions.

H. H. O. (Ealing) advises people not to throw up their present employment in order to enter the service of the Army and Navy Auxiliary Stores.

C. M. (London, N.).—The *News of the World* must have a queer sense of humour if it includes the Stock Exchange among "places of amusement." Perhaps the Editor has had a successful flutter in rubber.

Patriot (Clapton) thinks mourning is bad for trade. But it only checks unproductive expenditure.

H. M. (Faringdon) contributes the name of H. Monday (140a, Shaftesbury Avenue) to our black list of bookmakers. Evidently Black Monday, not Monday's settling.

Mrs. E. D. (Sutton) has designed an aeroplane skirt, and asks how to make it known. Is it plentifully supplied with *volants?*

J. A. F. (Langbank) says the majority of accidents in mines are caused by the carelessness of the miners themselves.

W. F. and Co. (Middelburg).—If you can prove that the coupons were sent off too late, of course you need not pay.

G. H. B. (Bristol) protests against the "drivel and rot" which have lately filled the press. He asks: "Are there no other widows in the land but Queen Alexandra?"

C. L. (London, E.) must learn to keep his temper in a crowd or else stay at home.

X. Y. Z. (Bedford Park) has a very low opinion of W. R. Howell and Co., touting booksellers. He says he put his foot into "the lower hemisphere" of one of their canvassers.

J. R. C. (Weymouth).—Your Deputy Mayor was certainly dreaming when he alluded to Queen Alexandra as "one of the finest mothers *England* has ever produced."

W. P. (Paris) complains that the Board of Trade refused to give him a list of exhibitors at the Brussels Exhibition. We suppose the Board of Trade knew best.

G. H. S. (Fulham) exposes a tea and portrait game played by the Domestic Supply Company (84, High Holborn).

G. J. (London, W.) says Peter Robinson pay 18 per cent. dividend, but plead "bad times" when asked for an increase of wages.

F. L. M. (Brockley) complains that foreigners were being employed to make property armour for the Festival of Empire. We are not surprised.

J. L. (Glasgow) writes: "Shackleton has become disgusted with the lack of attention paid him in New York. Whatever has he accomplished that a long-suffering people should be annoyed with his empty vapourings? He dodges around spouting saying nothing in many words. Ten times better men who *will discover* the Pole won't have a tenth so much to say about it. The Yankees should kick him out of the country. Mr. Roosevelt might also say a good deal less to more advantage." We quite agree.

King's Funeral.—The following is a further list of firms which, according to various correspondents, "docked" their employees in respect of the closing on the day of the King's funeral:—David Allen and Sons; Clarke, Nicholls, and Coombes; Tom Smith and Co., Christmas cracker makers; pay stopped both Friday and Saturday.

W. H. S. (Leyton) says H. White, the racing "system" monger, is on the job again.

Capt. Fulton (Sevenoaks), apropos our references to the Proclamation of King George in that town, disputes the accuracy in one or two unimportant details of the account we gave, and ends up his communication with the graceful observation that if our suggestion of naming one of the thoroughfares "Queer Street" be adopted, it would be a desirable site for a branch office of John Bull. Not at all a bad idea, as everybody would be sure to use the street.

A. J. (Nottingham) and many others, take up the cudgels on behalf of the Lace City—which we are assured is a veritable paradise on earth—or, at any rate, as near that ideal as any other great city. We must run down shortly and have a look for ourselves.

G. H. (Bradford) and others point out that the officer who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for killing an Englishman and was upon his release promoted in rank, was not in the German, but in the Austro-Hungarian, army.

C. A. N. (Ravenscourt Park).—We still think Mr. Asquith the greatest Parliamentarian in the House—which may or may not be saying very much—and we think that he has exhibited great skill in keeping his Cabinet together.

Sammy (Birmingham).—If the *Birmingham News* says the lady married Mr. Robert Corley Howle, eldest daughter of Mr. Robert Howle, we don't believe it, that's all. Neither does the lady.

Charles E. (Radford, Nottingham).—Quite so. But you don't tell us whether the motion in the Nottingham Town Council for all the local dogs to be chained, kennelled, or in lead of owner between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset was carried. Suppose our recent article on the morals of Nottingham explains the matter.

"Worker" (Accrington).—You want to know what we think of the Cotton Growers' Association, who, with the aid of the Labour organisation, are "making weekly collections in all workshops to aid them in their efforts to grow cotton." We think they have a remarkable appreciation of other people's confidence.

C. F. Boyle (Barnes).—We had noticed the allegation of the *Star* that the thieves who broke into the Oxford Street jeweller's vanished with booty worth thousands of pounds and "left not a clue behind." Who were they that they should deprive the police of a job?

Master David Davis (West Hampstead).—When you are older you will learn that nobody will give you something for nothing; certainly not the London General Supply Association. It's your money they want.

"Anti-Sacco" (Co. Down).—The present proprietor of this futile stuff for the treatment of consumption is a man named Stevens, living in Wimbledon. The estimated cost of a 5s. bottle is 1½d.

J. B. (Kingston) says that although J. Dorey and Co., Ltd., who have a contract for work at Hampton Court, paid all their other hands for the day of the King's funeral, they left out the painters. Mr. Harcourt will doubtless enquire about it.

(*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*)

MOTHER

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The drawing-room furniture, which is almost new, comprises, amongst other things, French-gilt Louis XIV. drawing-room suite upholstered in silk, designed by Monsieur Watteau, of Paris, worth 80 guineas, accept 28 guineas; a unique satinwood drawing-room suite, comprising cabinet with drawers enclosed, centre table, overmantel, Empire settee, two lounge chairs and six occasional chairs, all upholstered in French silk, accept 23 guineas, worth treble; Chippendale design drawing-room suite, 18 guineas; also Sheraton design set, 12 guineas; two Chesterfields, upholstered in a fine art tapestry, convertible ends, one 42s. and the other 60s.; 5ft. stuffover settee with rounded ends, upholstered in flowered silk, on turn gilt legs and casters, 6 guineas; six diven club easy chairs, 22s. each; 10 pretty and exquisite design occasional drawing-room chairs, 6s. each; very fine old Dutch inlaid cabinet, two elegant Vernis Martin cabinets, two buhl cabinets (fully inlaid), French writing bureau, and a magnificent specimen cabinet fitted with glass doors, grand piano by Broadwood, 16 guineas; also grand piano by Collard and Collard, 22 guineas; a magnificent instrument by Gustav Richter, £14; and a fine tone piano, £39; grand piano by C. Bechstein, no offer refused if reasonable; a brilliant tone, full-compass, iron frame, trichord boudoir grand pianoforte, in rosewood case, on fluted legs, by Steinway and Sons; American organ; piano-player, by Hardman; almost new, very massive square pillar all-brass bedstead, full size, with pure hair mattress, etc., from 63s.; an Italian square brass tube bedstead, 3 guineas; black and brass bedstead, 30s.; 10 most massive and elaborate bedroom suites in Heppelwhite, Queen Anne, Chippendale, Sheraton, ash, white enamel, oak, etc., from 70s. each; ebonised show cabinets with carved boxwood panels, 6ft. mahogany wardrobe, fitted rail, 10 pegs, bonnet drawer, two sliding trays, five long and two short drawers, silvered glass centre, two panel doors, 9 guineas; 4ft. Spanish mahogany chest of four long drawers, shaped top, with column support on plinth, £3 10s.; mahogany shaving stand with adjustable circular mirror, 28s.; 3ft. 6in. birch washstand, 10s.; Sheraton design bedroom suite, 6 guineas; large-size, fully inlaid suite, 10 guineas, and one at 15 guineas; three old antique chests, two tallboy chests, two very fine satinwood bedroom suites inlaid with kingwood, etc., with cheval glasses to match, 6ft. Sheraton design bedroom suite, 25 guineas, worth 60 guineas; mahogany cheval glass, 6 guineas; 3ft. mahogany robe, two bedside tables, etc., the dining, library, and reception furniture, comprises an elaborate carved oak dining-room set, consisting of two Elizabethan design carved oak chairs, six small chairs to match; most elegant and massive carved oak sideboard with bevel plate-glass back, extending dining table, all to match, six very fine specimens of reproduction of Chippendale chairs upholstered in crimson leather, also Sheraton design set, Heppelwhite set, a very fine Queen Anne dining-room set, 8 guineas; mahogany-frame, high back, open armchair, upholstered in crimson leather, 3 guineas; stuffover couch, upholstered in crimson morocco, 4 guineas; mahogany-frame, open armchair in morocco, £2 15s.; six walnut-frame dining chairs, seats upholstered en suite, 8 guineas; two oak bookcases, a morning-room suite in relid oak, comprising oak Welsh dresser, with copper fitments, and a William and Mary design suite upholstered in red leather, table, overmantel, all to match, accept 12 guineas; 6ft. 6in. oak sideboard, 4ft. chiffonniere, 5ft. walnut dining table (seven leaves), 4ft. 6in. grain walnut writing table, ormolu clock, a real Chippendale corner cupboard, three dining tables, opening to 16ft., from 60s.; mahogany dinner wagon, a convertible billiard dining table, with balls, cues, etc., and old oak cofter, two grandfather clocks, chiming on tubes, striking mantel clock by Lacey et Fils, Paris, with compensated movement, brass and ormolu dial, in ebonised glazed case, 26in. high; morocco Chesterfield and two club easys to match; the Wilton pile, maroon and figured buff ground and bordered carpet, 15ft. 9ins. by 17ft. Turkey and Persian carpets, fine specimens, also Axminster, Brussels, and other carpets, from 25s. each; about 16 pairs very fine silk curtains and mantel drapery to match, a rare collection of china, including a very fine Wedgwood dessert service, Dresden coffee service, etc., collection of fine old silver and Sheffield plate in Georgian and other designs; canteen of silver, 100 pieces, 7 guineas; two very fine sets of English-cut table glass, large quantity of bed and table linen; curtains, etc.; some rare oil and water-colour paintings and engravings, several pieces of plate by Mappin and Webb, two-plated candelabras and three pairs candlesticks, some very fine and unique bear and tiger skins, mounted as rugs, full heads, 10 cases of wines, assorted; very fine cigar cabinet; Parisian Victoria, miniature brougham, and two motor-cars, two wine bins, etc. All can be seen, and are being sold, without any reserve, every day, from nine to nine, except Saturdays, when we close at seven, at

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RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.)

Medley.

It is very extraordinary to read in South American papers, printed in Spanish, the advertisements of English manufacturers of sporting articles, such as cricket balls, etc.

Since he came South again, Stokes is getting quite a nice amount of riding, and if he can obtain employment continously from the Druids Lodge, Salisbury, stable, he have a pretty successful time of it.

Prophetic.

ASCOT "PLUMS" PRACTICALLY OVER.

The Gold Cup, although historic, is never much of a race nowadays.

SIR MARTIN

runs in any case, and for the good of sport, especially after "funking" meeting the American at Epsom, it is to be hoped that

BAYARDO

will oppose him, for I believe he must prove his superiority.

It is practically impossible to make selections in the dark, of horses who may be competing whilst these notes are in the press, the earlier running governing matters so materially.

We usually look, for instance, to the Hunt Cup positions to find the winner of the Wokingham, and it will depend on how

EUDORUS

has fared on Wednesday, and who unquestionably has a chance, and so, too, has LAWRENNY, whilst in the Alexandra Plate I shall believe solely in last year's winner,

PURE GEM,

who is a wonderful sticker and ought to beat DIBS, despite the slight difference in terms of their handicap for the Stakes.

If he has waited for this, as seems likely, whatever beats

VICTORY

will win the High Weight Stakes, whilst

AMERICUS GIRL

must take the King's Stand Stakes, unless the ground happens to be very soft.

Mayhap, Windsor will really provide the best betting card, and I can quite foresee

MY COLLAR

repeating his recent success in the Handicap.

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The following claims have been received for the issues of April 16th, 30th, and May 7th:—

S. GLIDDON, 8, Brunswick Street, Walthamstow. (No. 94,301.—April 16th.)

JAMES BONAS, 17, Laylands Road, Fishergate, near Brighton, Sussex. (No. 384,157.—April 30th.)

Mrs. L. HANCOCK, 92, St. Ann's Road, Southend-on-Sea. (No. 27,093.—April 30th.)

JAMES GILLESPIE, 287, Gairbraid Street, Maryhill, Glasgow. (No. 200,116.—May 7th.)

H. GREEN, 52, Queen's Road, Beighton, near Sheffield. (No. 185,115.—May 7th.)

Mrs. GERTRUDE HILL, Scoutbuish, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim. (No. 13,960.—May 7th.)

J. W. WILFORD, 25, Wivenhoe Road, Peckham, S.E. (No. 301,604.—May 7th.)

J. W. ORD, 102, Sorley Street, Sunderland. (No. 202,878.—May 7th.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of May 21:—

1169	89035	154496	201420	367479
1718	89347	161233	215299	368033
4933	90746	166206	221940	389500
5690	94529	167975	223247	401129
7353	99430	168471	226596	402463
7672	103936	169463	237745	421761
17786	111253	182076	3[illegible]8967	426597
44501	112955	190871	354992	428599
63967	150545	198911	361729	437426
73088	154000	199407	365200	4[illegible]129

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JULY 16TH (PUBLISHED JULY 14TH).

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